

Land Lawn Garden

EMPIRE FENCE LTD.
 All Types of Fence
 Professionally Installed or Do-It-Yourself
 Free Estimates & Consultation
 BRAMPTON 451-5910
 GEORGETOWN 873-1431



Tuitman's Garden Centre held the grand opening of its Georgetown location on Guelph Street last Friday. Present at the opening ceremony, from left; Walt Dixon, Vice-President of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, Town of Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, Len and Elly Tuitman, co-owners of Tuitman's Garden Centre, Bob Malcolmson, President of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, Al Robertson, Treasurer and Bob Creasy, Vice-President of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW.

Beautiful, year-long evergreens by design

During the bleakest winter months, when other plants have little more to offer than bare branches and twigs, evergreens remain colorful and vibrant. For the homeowner, evergreens offer two main advantages: they are easy to maintain, and their diversity provides a plant for every landscape situation.

The variety of evergreens is almost overwhelming. The tallest may reach more than a hundred feet in height, while the tiniest are but a few inches across. Foliage color includes every imaginable shade of green, as well as blues, yellows, plum-purple and bronze. Some are bold and coarse in texture, while others are fine and delicate. This diversity makes it possible to create a garden using only evergreens or to use them selectively where needed.

A plant for every job

- For an open site that is exposed to winter winds, the larger conifers make ideal windbreaks. When planted to the north and west, they will reduce heating costs as much as 20 percent and make working or playing outdoors much more pleasant.

- What could be nicer than having a live tree growing in the front yard to light for Christmas. The Black Hills spruce, which is slower-growing than most, is a good choice.

The use of a live, potted evergreen for an indoor tree has become increasingly popular. If not kept indoors too

long, it can be planted outside after the holiday to become a part of the permanent landscape.

- Most any evergreen can be used as a screen or hedge, but some require less trimming or shearing to maintain the desired form and size.

Canadian hemlock makes an ideal hedge in areas where summers are not too dry and hot. It may be sheared several times a year for a well-clipped appearance, or pruned just enough to control its size if an informal hedge is preferred.

The slower-growing yews are even easier to keep sheared. They are deeper green in color, and female plants produce red berries that are attractive in the fall.

- For a low hedge or edging, the spreading yews are ideal. The Japanese hollies or ilex are even easier to keep small and tidy. Boxwoods are similar in appearance and habit to Japanese hollies and just as easy to keep trimmed.

The hardier, smaller-leaved Korean boxwood can be grown where it is too cold for the more tender English boxwood or Japanese hollies. Azaleas make a colorful hedge when in bloom in the spring. However, shearing after mid-July will reduce or eliminate the bloom.

- Many evergreens are ideal for foundation plantings. Pyramidal yews and junipers may be used as strong vertical forms at the corners of a house or on either side of an entrance. If a more rounded form is desired, the bold-leaved rhododendrons or finer-textured Japanese andromeda provide an added bonus of showy spring flowers.

The foundation planting can be completed with spreading yews or junipers, Japanese ilex or, in warmer climates, dwarf nandina.

- Several new hybrid hollies with both attractive foliage and fruits have recently become available. The Meserve or blue hollies, including Blue Girl, Blue Boy, Blue Princess and Blue Prince, are said to be hardy as far north as Minneapolis.

Keep in mind, however, that at least one male must be included in every planting if the females are expected to produce berries.

- Most evergreens are available in dwarf as well as standard forms. The tiniest are mere pin cushions that are best used in special collections or miniature gardens.

Slow-growing dwarf types are ideal for foundation plantings or borders, where their small size all but eliminates the need for pruning or shearing.

Most standard-sized evergreens will eventually have to be replaced in spite of rigorous pruning. This will not be the case with dwarf or slow-growing forms.

- Evergreen groundcovers may be used to provide cover where grass fails to grow or on slopes too steep to mow. They reduce soil erosion, control

weeds and provide an important transition from the height of trees and shrubs to the low carpet of the lawn.

Try English ivy, pachysandra and hardy periwinkle. Wintercreeper euonymus provides an added bonus by changing from green to plum-purple in winter. Low groundcovers provide an ideal place to naturalize spring bulbs such as daffodils by hiding their unsightly leaves as they mature.

Simple to care for

Evergreens should be watered generously when first planted. Allowing them to go into the winter with dry soil may result in winter damage. At other times, water them only when the soil appears dry an inch or so beneath the surface. Two to four inches of a durable mulch, such as pine bark, will keep weeds under control and conserve moisture.

The key to maintaining good health and vigor is to provide an adequate supply of nutrients. Since most evergreens require an acid soil, Miracid® fertilizer is a good choice to meet both requirements. When applied with a hose-end feeder, evergreens can absorb nutrients quickly through both roots and foliage.

Success with azaleas and acid-loving plants

Success with some of nature's most spectacular but demanding flowering shrubs and trees is often as simple as "fixing" the soil to meet their needs.

Botanical superstars such as the azalea and rhododendron are among the plants that flourish when planted in a

sheltered area and in soil that is loose, moist, organically-rich, and within a pH range of 4.0 to 5.0 (acidic).

The dilemma facing many American gardeners is how to prepare the soil for acid-loving plants. Native soil often has too much clay, too much sand, or is

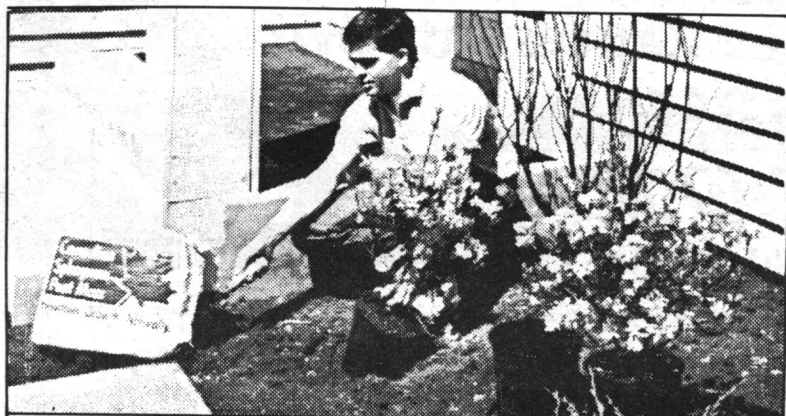
out of kilter pH-wise.

You can "build" your soil from the ground down by amending it with a rich, organic material. Backyard compost is becoming more prevalent as composting methods are better understood and practiced. Another choice, especially in rural areas, is well-rotted manure.

However, the most universal option is Canadian Sphagnum peat moss, a plentiful, sustainable resource. It's unique among other soil amendments and specifically attuned to the needs of

azaleas and rhododendron. You can condition your soil by working two inches of peat moss into the top six inches of soil.

Canadian Sphagnum peat moss has a dependable pH level which easily can be worked into any soil to sustain acid-loving plants. Its naturally unique cel-



CARLISLE INTERLOCKING & LANDSCAPING

Georgetown's Best



INTERLOCKING STONE

Walkways & Driveways • Patio & Pool Decks
 Retaining Walls • Creative Patterns & Designs

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Unique Residential & Commercial Designs • Fencing & Decking
 Sodding & Seeding • Rockeries & Mass Planting

PROFESSIONAL TREE CARE

Tree Grooming • Tree & Stump Removal
 Woodlot Management • Lot Clearing & Restoration



FULLY INSURED

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

873-3456