

# Land Lawn Garden

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## Homeowners' thoughts turn to gardens

The recent — and long-awaited — arrival of spring has triggered many an itchy green thumb. If you're like most homeowners, you're anxious to get out in your garden and make things grow. And, regardless of its size, a garden serves to enhance and beautify your home.

Experienced gardeners will tell you that there's nothing quite like the thrill of seeing the fruits of your labor spring up from the earth, providing you with a cornucopia of color and texture.

Some people prefer to stick strictly to flowers, while others opt for a mix of flowers and vegetables. There has also been a resurgence of interest in herb gardens. Many people find that several varieties of herbs — in addition to supplying good food seasonings — also provide excellent ground cover.

### Variety and Color

Even if you don't have enough space for long, sweeping vistas of flowerbeds, or even a vegetable patch, you can still pack a lot of variety and color into small flowerbeds.

If you have limited space, don't forget that flowers can be easily planted in narrow strips along fences and shrubs as colorful, attractive borders. Climbing flowers such as clematis and portulaca are also an option if you can only expand upwards and not outwards.

### Containers and Window Boxes

Container gardens are a popular choice for many homeowners, because they don't generally require as much maintenance when it comes to weeding. If you opt for containers, you may find you have to water them more often. Conversely, after heavy rains, you'll have to drain the pots to make sure your plants don't drown in too much water.

Window boxes are also a popular way of adding some extra color and excitement to your home if a garden isn't viable. Boxes brimming over with cheery, cascading annuals not only dress up your windows, they also serve to make your home look more cosy and inviting.

### Planning Your Garden

When planning this year's garden, take stock of what already exists including any bulbs. (You won't want to remove them accidentally.) If you have quite a few perennials — plants that return year after year — you may want to limit your purchases to annuals (flowers that grow for one season — like impatiens and petunias — and don't last over the winter).

And if you have areas of your garden that are sloping or prone to erosion, you may want to incorporate some ground covers to help keep the soil in place.

There are many varieties of ground covers available through gardening centres. Some homeowners are even opting to replace their entire lawns with hardy, low-maintenance ground covers.

Others prefer to try and capture the look and feel of a natural meadow and plant wildflowers. If you're interested in recreating a natural look, or finding out what type of ground covers would thrive best in your yard or garden, talk to the experts at your local nursery or gardening centre.

**Set Realistic Budget**

It's a good idea to set a realistic budget when planning this year's garden — and to stick to it. Experts also recommend that you sit down and try sketching out your plan — to scale — before making your purchases. Take all variables into consideration, such as the amount of light, shade and wind your garden receives, as well as your soil type. (Some plants, like azaleas and rhododendrons, for example, prefer acidic soil).

### Consult an Expert

If you're just starting out from scratch and don't have any previous plantings — or you want to replace or revamp your current garden, you may want to hire a landscape architect to come up with a plan that best suits your needs and growing conditions.

When planning, keep in mind that some plant varieties attract certain types of insects (such as bees and aphids), while other repel them.

Marigolds, for instance, have long been touted as good bug deflectors.

Consult the experts at your gar-

dening centre or check out some gardening books for more information on "companion planting" and natural ways to eliminate pests.

If you have pets or young children you'll probably consider avoiding chemicals altogether. Environmental groups usually have quite a bit of literature available on the subject.

You may also want to use plants that attract certain types of wildlife — such as butterflies and birds. Again, for more information, consult gardening books or an expert.

### Color and Size

Keep color in mind as you plan your garden. Do you want to use one color throughout your garden, or would you like a variety of hues? Take the height and growth range of the plants you intend to use into consideration as well. Obviously, if you choose a variety that spreads, you'll have to leave room to allow for future growth.

While rows of plants of varying heights look attractive, you can try varying things a bit for a more informal, natural look.

**Halton Community Television Cable 4**

**Weekly Programme Schedule**  
 for the week of May 25th to May 28th

<b>Monday</b> NO PROGRAMS (VICTORIA DAY) - see you at BANG-O-RAMA -	<b>Thursday</b> 5:30 Religion 6:00 Community Calendar 6:30 Change on Life 7:00 Sportszone 7:30 Focus on Europe 8:00 Germany Live
<b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 Religion 6:00 Optimists TV Bingo 7:00 Return of Tiger Jeet Singh	<b>Friday</b> 5:30 Community Calendar 6:00 Sportszone 6:30 Halton Hills Council (May 25/93)
<b>Wednesday</b> 5:30 TV Story Time 6:00 Community Calendar 6:30 Money in the Bank 7:00 Halton Seniors' TV 8:00 BANG-O-RAMA (Highlights)	

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