

Repotting vital to plant growth

Repotting plants is as vital to their health as adequate watering. As a plant grows, its roots take up more and more space and diminish the amount of mixture in the pot, inhibiting plant growth and eventually resulting in poor plant health.

Permanent houseplants generally require repotting once a year until they reach a mature size. Outdoor plants that are grown from seed need to be repotted several times within the first few months.

The following tips will

help you usher your plants on their way to vibrant health and new growth.

* Repotting is messy, so give yourself plenty of room on a surface that can handle exposure to water and soil.

* Choose a new pot that is a size or two larger than the existing pot. You'll want 1 to 2 inches under the roots and 1 inch on the sides and top for the fresh potting soil.

* Place your hand on top of the pot, with the main stem between two fingers. Turn the pot over and gently tap the rim against the edge of a table or tap your hand against the base of the pot. After a few taps, the root ball should loosen and the pot can be lifted. If not, run a knife blade around the inside of the rim.

* Check the root ball for dead roots. If fresh root tips are showing all over the surface, the plant is ready to be repotted. If the roots are densely matted or are forming a thick spiral around the base, repotting is overdue.

* Place enough potting soil in the bottom of the root ball, 1 inch below the rim.

* Add potting soil around the sides and work it in with a stick or your fingers, compressing it lightly. Then, add 1/4 inch of potting soil as top-dressing.

* Gently scrape away the top inch or two of existing potting soil with a spoon or small trowel. Remove as much soil as possible without exposing major roots.

* Refill the pot with fresh potting soil to the original level.


Home & Garden



Kathleen Dills Hartnagle was one of the happy shoppers at the Acton Horticultural Society's plant sale on Saturday. The Society realized a substantial profit from the sale. — Ted Tyler photo

TSC *Closed Monday, May 18*
YOUR SUPERSTORE FOR FARM, AUTO, HARDWARE


18" Gas String TRIMMER



\$149
Reg. 159.
44-94308

- 30cc
- Dual .095" line
- E-Z line advance system
- "D" front handle

18" Reel Type PUSH MOWER



\$115
Reg. 129.
44-95029

- 5 blades
- 10" tires
- 3 position height adjustment

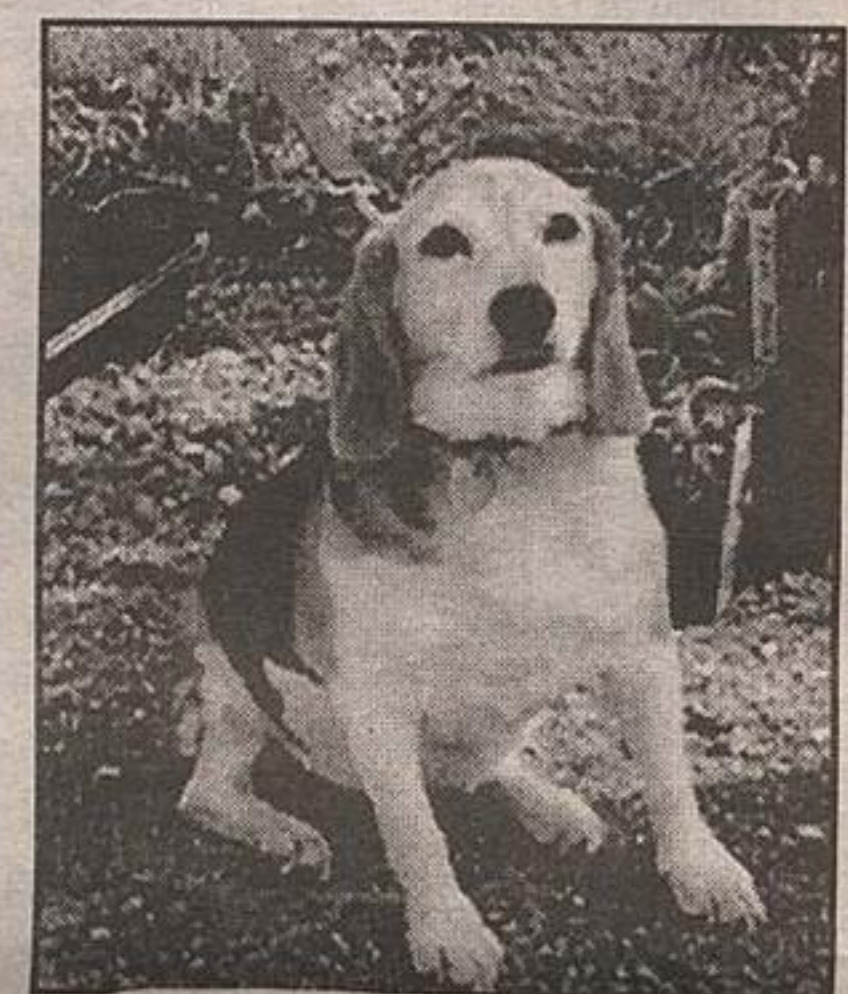
Prices guaranteed until May 23
Open: Mon-Wed 8-6 Thurs-Fri 8-9 Sat 8-5 Sun 10-5
 545 Silvercreek Pkwy. N., Guelph
766-1566

Easy lawn repairs for bare spots

They're cute, they're cuddly, but oh, the trouble they cause. Dogs may be man's best friend, but they're also a lush green lawn's worst nightmare. Is your pet damaging your lawn? Repairing bare spots is easier than you might think.

Dig 2 inches of peat moss into the soil under the damaged lawn, spread seed, cover with a 1/2-inch layer of Canadian sphagnum peat moss and keep it moist for a week or two. You'll see green results in about 10 days.

For a free brochure filled with lawn-care tips, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope with 32 cents postage to Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, Dept. TD1, "How-To Lawn Care" Brochure, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN 55438.



Misty, this 15-year-old beagle, was another who enjoyed Saturday's plant sale but was just too doggone tired to stand around.

Enhance flavour with flowers

Flowers decorate your yard, beautify your home - and flavor your meals?

Edible flowers have been

used to enhance dishes since ancient times. From sweet to peppery, each flower possesses its own characteristics,

making food refreshing and beautiful. Whether with the bitter taste of the dandelion or the peppery tang of the nasturtium, a few petals can add the perfect touch to any meal.

If you'd like to enhance a dish with the beautiful flowers from your garden, but aren't quite sure how, consult Kitty Morse's "Edible Flowers: A Kitchen Companion With Recipes" (Ten Speed Press). This volume offers the botanical origins and characteristics of more than 40 flowers, as well as the blooms' cultural significance and culinary uses. It also provides nearly 30 recipes for everything from appetizers to desserts.

Morse offers one important warning: Make sure the flowers you choose have been grown naturally - without the use of pesticides. For this reason, flowers from a florist and most nurseries are not acceptable. For best results, you should pick fresh edible blossoms with care at the peak of their bloom, preferably early in the day.

If you're uncertain of whether a flower is edible or not, Morse recommends that you consult a horticultural specialist or an encyclopedia of edible plants.

With that in mind, let flowers enrich one more part of your life by adding beauty to your meals.

Blue Iris

Garden Centre & Landscaping Ltd.



Special

15% OFF

Everything in the Garden Centre

Flowering Shrubs, Trees and Evergreens
 Wide Variety
 Perennials -- over 700 varieties
 Come see our Perennial Shade House
 Baskets, Annuals and Pansies
 Lots to Choose From!

Triple Mix	4 for \$9 ⁰⁰	reg 2.95 each
Cedar Mulch	3 for \$15 ⁰⁰	reg 5.95 each

Eramosa 5th Line
 Bruceedale Corner
 Hwy 24

**Hours: Mon-Fri 8-8
 Sat 8-6, Sun 11-5**
856-9789

OPEN HOLIDAY WEEKEND!

<p>FREE DELIVERY <small>Triple Mix, Top Soil, Mulches, Sand Screenings, 4 yds or more</small></p> <p>SOD \$1³⁹ roll <small>Cash & Carry Only</small></p>	<p>PANSIES 99¢ 4 pk</p> <p>Thousands of Perennials to Choose From</p>	<p>ASK ABOUT OUR LANDSCAPE SERVICE</p> <p>GERANIUMS \$1²⁹ 4" pot</p>
<p>HANGING BASKETS from \$7⁹⁹</p>	<p>Unique Hanging Baskets & Wall Planters</p>	<p>CLEMATIS \$6⁹⁹ 1 gal pot</p>
<p>CITRONELLA \$5⁰⁰ reg. 6.99 6" pot</p>	<p>Martha Washington 6" Pots, now in</p>	<p>ROSES \$9⁹⁹ 1 gal pot</p>

Great selection of annuals, perennials, vegetable plants, evergreens, trees & shrubs

MEADOWVILLE GARDEN CENTRE

R.R.#1, Guelph
 (across from Guelph Lake)

GUELPH LAKE
 GUELPH
 WATSON RD
 HWY. 24 N
 (2 min. from Victoria Rd.)

822-0840