

Victoria Weekend Garden Special

'Cut Out' Careless Lawn-Mowing Habits

When operating any type of outdoor power equipment homeowners should practise these important do's and don'ts.

* Do read the manufacturer's operator's manual before beginning.

* Do keep small children out of the mowing area, and preferably indoors under adult supervision.

* Do be alert and turn off the mower if children enter the area.

* Do look behind and down for small children before operating in reverse.

* Do use extra care when approaching corners, shrubs and trees.

* Do handle fuel carefully and avoid spilling when filling the engine.

* Do wear the proper clothing - long slacks and sturdy shoes.

* Don't carry children. Riding mowers are designed for one operator only.

* Don't allow children to operate a riding mower.

* Don't drive a riding mower like a race car - it is a mower, not a racer.

Remember, carelessness is one of the leading causes of accidents. Homeowners of all ages should always think of safety first while operating power tools.

Not Enough Space for a Big Rosebush? Try a Shrublet

In the wonderful world of roses, shrub roses are the ones that grow tall and wide and provide lots and lots of colour in the garden. Sometimes you may need all that colour but can't provide the space it takes to grow a huge shrub. That's when it's time to think about a shrublet.

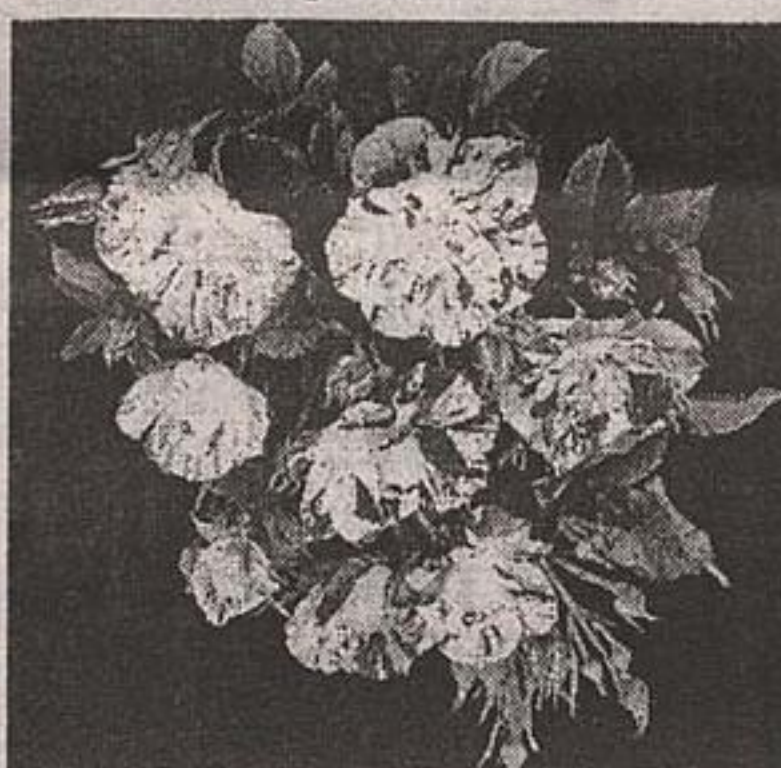
An entirely new class of rose, a shrublet is a rosebush that has flowers and foliage on a smaller scale. But unlike a miniature rose, which has small flowers and small foliage on a small plant, a shrublet is a larger plant that's just chock-a-block loaded with small flowers and foliage.

Depending on the variety of shrublet you choose, the plants grow to between 3 and 4 feet tall, and about 2 feet wide - tuckable! They fit easily into most landscape situations, especially where a season-long profusion of colour is important.

In the perennial border, a shrublet is the plant that's always in bloom, providing a wonderful contrast with peonies in the spring, delphinium in midsummer, and phlox in late summer. Even between perennial cycles, shrublets just keep on producing myriads of colourful flowers.

Because these plants are continually laden with bloom, shrublets always fit nicely into foundation plantings. And they make wonderful companions when planted in front of, or intermixed with, the once-blooming old garden roses.

Like most roses, shrublets grow extremely well in warm climates. In cold climates, where many types of roses require protection to keep the bud union (graft) from being damaged by winter winds and freezing temperatures, shrublets thrive without protection. Rather than having been budded onto a rootstock, shrublets grow on their own roots, making these plants less susceptible to the ravages of winter. Where winter winds damage rose canes, shrublets can be pruned in the spring, right to the ground if necessary, and new, strong canes will grow.



Full, bushy, and flowerful, the unique striped shrublet, Rockin' Robin, performs well in most climates.

Shape Decorative Garden Container Displays



CONTAINER GARDENING is a simple way to add beauty and colour to your yard. A well-prepared, peat-based soil is the key to maintaining healthy, vibrant plants.

Container gardening can bring new life to traditional gardening techniques. From teacups to terra-cotta pots, any container can house a beautiful garden.

There are many factors to keep in mind when creating a container garden. Colour, size and texture of flowers and type of container all are notions to be considered. Shape also is a design element that can be adapted to fit the creative style of the gardener. The following six basic planting shapes are courtesy of "Container Gardening Through the Year" (DK), by Malcolm Hillier.

Fan-Shaped

Plants and shrubs that splay out into an attractive fan shape work well in terra-cotta pots that are conical in shape. Select plants that grow to about one-and-a-half times

the container height for a balanced display.

Vertical

To create visual symmetry, try to grow several tall plants together in a single container so that the width of the plants equals the width of the pot.

Horizontal

To counteract the long narrow shape of a window box or trough, avoid planting in straight rows, vary the height of the main plants to break up the horizontal thrust, and soften the overall effect with filler plants.

Oval-Shaped

Oval-shaped containers often are low-level and look most effective when viewed from above. Plants that are diminutive in stature, or have a characteristic spreading or trailing habit, are the most suitable candidates.

Dome-Shaped

Many plants grow into hummocky shapes, a profile that suits low tubs and cauldrons in exposed sites. Trailing foliage helps to break harsh outlines while allowing some of the container's decorative surface to be seen.

Asymmetrical

Although perhaps one of the more difficult shapes to achieve, because the proportions of the plant material are not equal, asymmetrically planted displays have a movement and instant vitality lacking in more traditional designs.

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