

# Long Weekends Are Made For Gardening!!

The Victoria Day weekend is the signal for gardeners to start planting those flowers and shrubs to beautify our towns and villages. The merchants on the following pages have just what you need for that garden, and we have some useful gardening tips for you to consider.

## Shortcut to a Healthy Lawn: Weekend Project

### Before You Begin

Measure the area in which you want to lay sod or seed and calculate the square footage. If using sod, call to reserve the amount you'll need and schedule delivery on the day you plan to finish soil preparation. If you will be working with a small area, you can pick up the sod yourself at a home and garden centre.

Supplies you will need include a large rake, a wooden plank or ladder, a rototiller and a roller, all of which can be rented from a local rental service. If you're working a small area, you can skip the rentals and use a sharp spade instead of a rototiller. You'll also need Canadian peat moss, compost, fertilizer, grass seed and a sprinkler.

### Saturday

The first day should be devoted to preparing your soil - the most important step. Healthy soil is as important to your lawn as a strong foundation is to your home and will ensure the best growth of the new sod or seed. Remove weeds and rocks. To prepare sandy or clay soil, spread 1 to 2 inches of peat moss and 1 to 2 inches of compost, then roto-till or dig into the soil. The better prepared the soil, the deeper the grass roots will grow and the less maintenance the lawn will need later.

Make sure the peat/compost is mixed in, but don't "over-till," which makes the soil too fine. Compulsive tilling pulverizes the soil and eliminates air spaces, so

Spring is the perfect time to plant a new lawn or get an unruly lawn back in order.

And you don't need a green thumb or tons of time to get the job done. In fact, a weekend will cover it if you follow these simple tips:

### Sunday

Now that the soil has been prepared, it's ready to level and rake. Drag a ladder or wooden plank across the new lawn area to make the bed level and free of dips. Use the large rake to smooth out rough spots, and break down any lumps before seeding.

\* It's time to fertilize. Be sure to choose a fertilizer formulated especially for new lawns and carefully follow the instructions. You are now ready to spread seed or sod.

\* Seeding: Spread seeds with a spreader according to package directions, then top dress with a thin layer of peat moss (no more than 1/2-inch deep). Finish with a light watering to help keep the peat moss and seeds from blowing away or drying out.

\* Sodding: If you choose to lay sod, you will experience instant gratification and, because you start with a thick grass carpet, there will be less trouble with invading weeds.

Once the sod is down, fill in the joints with peat moss to help the sod sections knit together quickly. (Tip: Try to limit

foot traffic on the sod for the first two weeks, especially when it's wet).

### Maintain Your New Lawn

Once the new sod is down, all you have to do is keep it well watered for the first two weeks. The soil should be moist at all times but not wet. This may mean watering twice daily in hot weather or once a week if it's rainy. If you've seeded, keep the top-dressing moist at all times for the first two or three weeks. The result of this weekend project will be a healthy lawn for years to come.

For more tips on how to keep your lawn green and weed free visit one of the garden centres on these pages.

## Allergy Tip



If you are highly allergic to various kinds of grasses, limit the amount of bread you eat in spring and summer and you'll probably feel better and have

more energy, according to "Allergy-Free Gardening," (Ten Speed Press), by Thomas Leo Ogren. Many allergists have noticed increased allergy to grass pollens among patients who eat wheat products.



## 'Barbra' is a Big Hit in the Rose Garden

A fabulously fragrant new mauve rose named in honour of songstress Barbra Streisand is a population addition to the world of roses. 'Barbra Streisand' is a free-flowering hybrid tea with large blooms that open to reveal perfect, high centred form every time.



Hybrid tea aficionados will appreciate the heady rose and citrus blossom fragrance that emanates from the large showy, long-stemmed bloom. A rich lavender with petals that blush darker at the edges, 'Barbra Streisand' is a rose that any gardener would be proud to grow.

The plant is upright and bushy, with glossy deep green leaves. It's easy to grow in any climate, but performs best in hot weather. Like most hybrid teas, Barbra will need protection in cold winter climates, but this rosebush is definitely worth the extra effort.

Streisand, who is an avid rose gardener, selected this rose from among several choices, and grows many 'Barbra Streisand' plants along with 1100 other rosebushes at her California home. She and her rose have been featured on several television programs, and her roses, specially imported from her own garden, were onstage at her last concert.





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