

DOORN Garden Centre

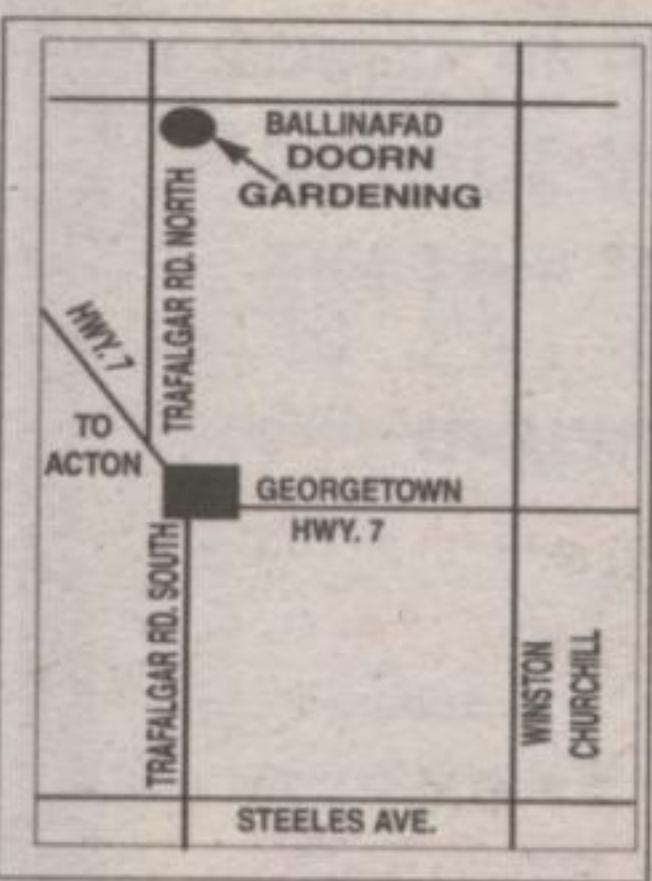
Come to the Country Garden Centre for all your garden needs
<http://doorngardencentre.cjb.net>

Go Different, go Doorn Garden Centre

- Topsoil (while Supplies last) 5 Bags for \$10.
- Large mixed hanging basket (fibre)
- Annuals galore
- Basket stuffers
- Herbs
- Shade and flowering trees
- Roses
- Azalia's, Rhodendendros
- Gazebo's, Perogola's, Arches, Patio Stones



WATERPLANTS!



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 8 a.m. - dark
14177 Trafalgar Rd. (North of Hwy. 7)
BALLINAFAD

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 5 MINS. SOUTH FROM ERIN
905-877-4915

Kids and gardening a natural mix

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Explain to them that an acre's worth of plants won't fit in the allotted space, so they'll have to choose carefully so as not to crowd their plants. Even toddlers can understand the concept of each plant needing its individual space, just as they do.

You may want to get out some garden books to help them with their choices, or take them to a nursery or garden store for some browsing. The drawback to this is when a child sees high-maintenance plants, like roses, and becomes stuck on the idea that nothing else will do. Often it's better to offer some easier suggestions and let them pick.

For kids, growing vegetables offers a bigger payoff in terms of satisfaction. Vegetables mature at a slower pace than flowers, go through the fruiting stage after flowering and then provide food for the table. It's truly a self-esteem builder for children to see their family enjoying things they have helped produce.

For an easy veggie garden for kids, try a salad garden. Have them grow the ingredients for a healthy dinner salad: a few heads of lettuce, a row of carrots, a row of radishes and a tomato plant (they may like the sweeter cherry tomatoes, and these grow abundantly). If space permits, some celery or a green pepper plant might be nice.

Even if your child doesn't like vegetables, few can resist tasting what they've grown. You'll be building

good nutrition and gardening habits at the same time.

Although they take up a good deal of space, kids also love growing their own pumpkins for carving at Halloween. There are some giant varieties out there too, and ways to make your pumpkins plumper. Again, a youngster will take great pride in providing a crop of Jack-O-Lanterns for his cousins and friends.

If your children prefer flowers, stick to the hardy varieties, like petunias, daisies or every kid's favorite, the giant sunflower. These can reach up to 15 feet in height with huge and lovely flower heads that maintain their beauty for weeks, and then provide plenty of tasty seeds for birds and squirrels or roasting in the oven.

Since some species of flowers bloom and die quickly, plan to plant again midway through the season.

Be sure to provide the right child-size garden tools; there are many excellent ones with hard plastic implements for digging and weeding. Teach your kids to use them correctly and care for them responsibly.

It may be necessary to rein in the child's enthusiasm at times, especially when it comes to watering. Water and dirt make mud, another irresistible compound to kids, and they'll happily drown a plant with a hose if allowed. Little ones understand that plants need water, but must be taught a watering schedule, then monitored to make sure they stick with it.

—By Daniel Aspell











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