

A Special Supplement to
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Home, Lawn & Garden

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Small-scale gardens make every inch count

Nowadays, it seems, there are more and more people and less and less outdoor space...especially for gardening. But whether you're talking about a sizeable outdoor plot of 2,500 to 3,000 square feet, or a terrace a few yards square or simply a small balcony, whatever size plot you've got, there's always room enough to get a garden going. It's just too nice an activity to pass up. All you need to know are a few tricks for handling the space you'll be working with.

A few basic tips

The smaller your garden, the more important it is to choose the right vegetables and accessories. If it's a choice between quantity and variety, go for quantity. You can't overload any garden space. "Asiatic" and "contemporary" style gardens are widely favored for their pure and simple lines, and their use of geometric shapes. Don't be afraid to keep it simple. A huge pot of grass or a box-wood shrub trimmed into a topiary design makes quite a visual statement!

You can also use your vertical spaces with a few well-chosen climbing plants, such as the clematis family, which will bloom successively from spring through fall. Ivy is highly valued for its long-lasting foliage, while climbing hydrangea will take root and grow on walls in the shade.

Shrubs are another option. Many are very colorful in the fall and their bare branches are decorative in the winter months. Choose shrubs that won't grow more than two or three metres high, so that you can move them in giant pots, or set them near the flowery pots that add a delightful floral effect to a small garden.

Using color

To make a small yard look larger, the ideal color gradient runs from dark colors near the house to paler shades at the end of the lot. Those with some expertise in color gardens might try growing geraniums, pansies and impatiens in pots attached to the wall...or in hanging baskets.

Pots and containers...and much more

Flowerpots, troughs and window boxes attract attention, and add colour and form to a small garden. They also allow you to increase your planting area. Use them, for example, to decorate a dark walkway with shadow-resistant plants, brighten a terrace or balcony, or decorate a doorway. And if you like cooking herbs, rustic annuals flowering from bulbs, you can grow these in your own special corner. Last but not least, you can take your best indoor plant pots outside, and fill them up with rocks, pebbles or even plain sand.

To make the most of your garden and landscaping plans, visit Botanix online at www.botanix.ca.

—News Canada

With gardening season now in full bloom Gail Stone (left) was purchasing some plants from local vendor Vesna Jovanov during the opening of the Acton Trunk Sale Saturday. The weekly sale runs every Saturday morning until October.

Photo by Trish England

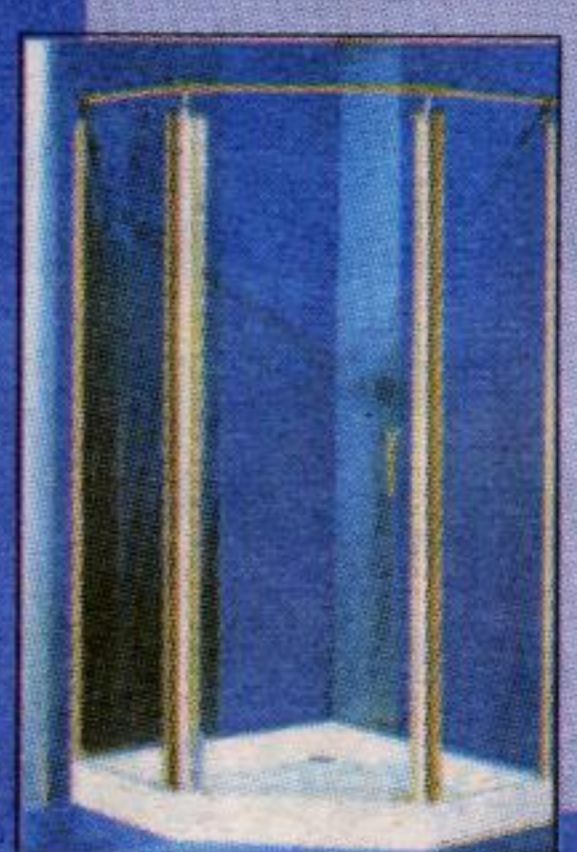
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