

HOME & GARDEN

Concept Cabinets
BUY DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER
 • Kitchens • Wall Units • Bars • Office Fixtures
WE DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, AND INSTALL
 785 MAIN STREET EAST, UNIT 3
 (905) 878-9177

The debate around controlling pests in our gardens

(NC)—An important hobby for many Canadians, and one that is increasing in popularity is gardening. "I have a firm belief that the gardening industry is getting bigger," says Mark Cullen, President of Weall and Cullen Garden Centres. Mark is well known across the country for his gardening expertise and from his syndicated radio show and TV program on Better Homes and Garden Television.

"This is an exciting time to be in the gardening business," he says. "We are seeing a growth in demand. We are also seeing younger gardeners in their twenties and thirties embracing gardening — especially first time homeowners." Cullen notes that the business is also getting very competitive as mass retailers and others compete for a share of the pie. He notes that the focus of his company is on providing outstanding customer service and answers to their customers' questions, especially in the area of plant selection and plant health.

To maintain a beautiful and healthy garden and home landscape, gardeners turn to a variety of tools to control pests that can otherwise damage sensitive plants. One of

the key tools used are pesticides.

Cullen has seen a trend, particularly with younger gardeners, toward more environmentally friendly pest control solutions. This includes ready to use formulations of lawn and garden pesticides as well as organic pest control products. "People do not want concentrated products on their shelf, and they want to ensure that their pets and children are safe." He notes that retailers are responding to consumer's concerns by selling more ready to use products as well as organic and other non-synthetic products. He also sees homeowners embracing some of the principles of integrated pest management in terms of spot spraying only where there are weeds or insect problems.

Cullen himself combines a variety of tools including cultural, organic and where needed, pesticides in his approach to gardening. He sees an important role for pesticides in terms of being one of the tools available for gardeners. Believing that consumers should look very closely at the toxicity of the products they are buying — whether synthetic or organic. "It is important for consumers to continue to educate themselves on what is safe to use," says Cullen. "There are some synthetic pesticides that are in fact safer to use than some of the organic products out there." He says that toxicity should

be the criterion for use instead of labeling a product as either being a synthetic chemical or not.

In terms of safety, Cullen says he is confident in the safety of pesticides when they are used responsibly. "We know that our regulators in Ottawa operate to more stringent standards than in any jurisdiction in the world. This gives me confidence in what we are selling when it is used as directed."

Cullen notes that the debate around pesticides is a complicated issue and that some special interest groups and even politicians try to make it a clear black and white situation when it is not. A balanced approach is needed with both sides playing a role in the debate. "It is unfortunate that the pesticide industry is dismissed outright as biased, as the industry does have credible information to offer."

To ensure that pesticides or other products they sell are used properly, Cullen's staff focuses a great deal of time on education with their customers. "We actively support all of the products we sell and provide our customers with the information they need to use these products properly. Most consumers lead busy lives, so they trust our staff to make the recommendations that are right for them."

Protection PLUS
 BRIGGS & STRATTON
Extends the Life of Your Equipment

EXTEND the LIFE of your Equipment

A Properly Maintained Engine Will
 • Reduce fuel consumption up to 30%
 • Protect your investment
 • Reduce emissions up to 50%

Bring in your equipment for a tune-up or purchase a Briggs & Stratton Maintenance Kit.

Now is the time to give your Outdoor Power Equipment a tune-up! Briggs & Stratton has all the maintenance products you need to extend the life of your engine. Just pick up the Briggs & Stratton Maintenance Kit you need from **Halton Power Equipment** or let us do it for you. You can be assured your Briggs & Stratton powered equipment will start up easy and run at maximum performance!

"Your Power Source"
HALTON POWER EQUIPMENT
 Parts & Repairs For All Small Engines
 20 Main St. W. Milton
 905-875-3286

 www.briggsandstratton.com

Blind Advantage
 Since 1985

Let us Quote You!

FACTORY DIRECT PRICES
BLINDS SHUTTERS DRAPERIES

- Vertical & Venetians
- Free Home Service
- 2" Wood/Steel Blinds
- Blind Cleaning
- Repairs & Installation
- Draperies

HunterDouglas WINDOW FASHIONS

vinylbilt

Fax Us Your Measurements (905) 336-1097

BURLINGTON OAKVILLE
(905) 336-5341 or (905) 330-3211
www.eureka4you.com/blindadvantage

LAFARGE Concrete
 NORTH AMERICA
 1ST IN PERFORMANCE CONCRETE
 for the homeowner's outdoor needs

"Supercrete" for all of your homeowner needs.
 Patios, Driveways, Walkways, etc.
 • OPEN SATURDAY SEASONALLY •
ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY 5 PM THURSDAY

COD 1-866-224-2722

MILTON: (905) 876-4728
BURLINGTON: (905) 637-5607
GEORGETOWN: (905) 873-0254

Horticulturists on staff

Flowering Shrubs
30% off

Landscape:
 • Design & Decor
 • Maintenance
 • Supplies

Member of Landscape Ontario

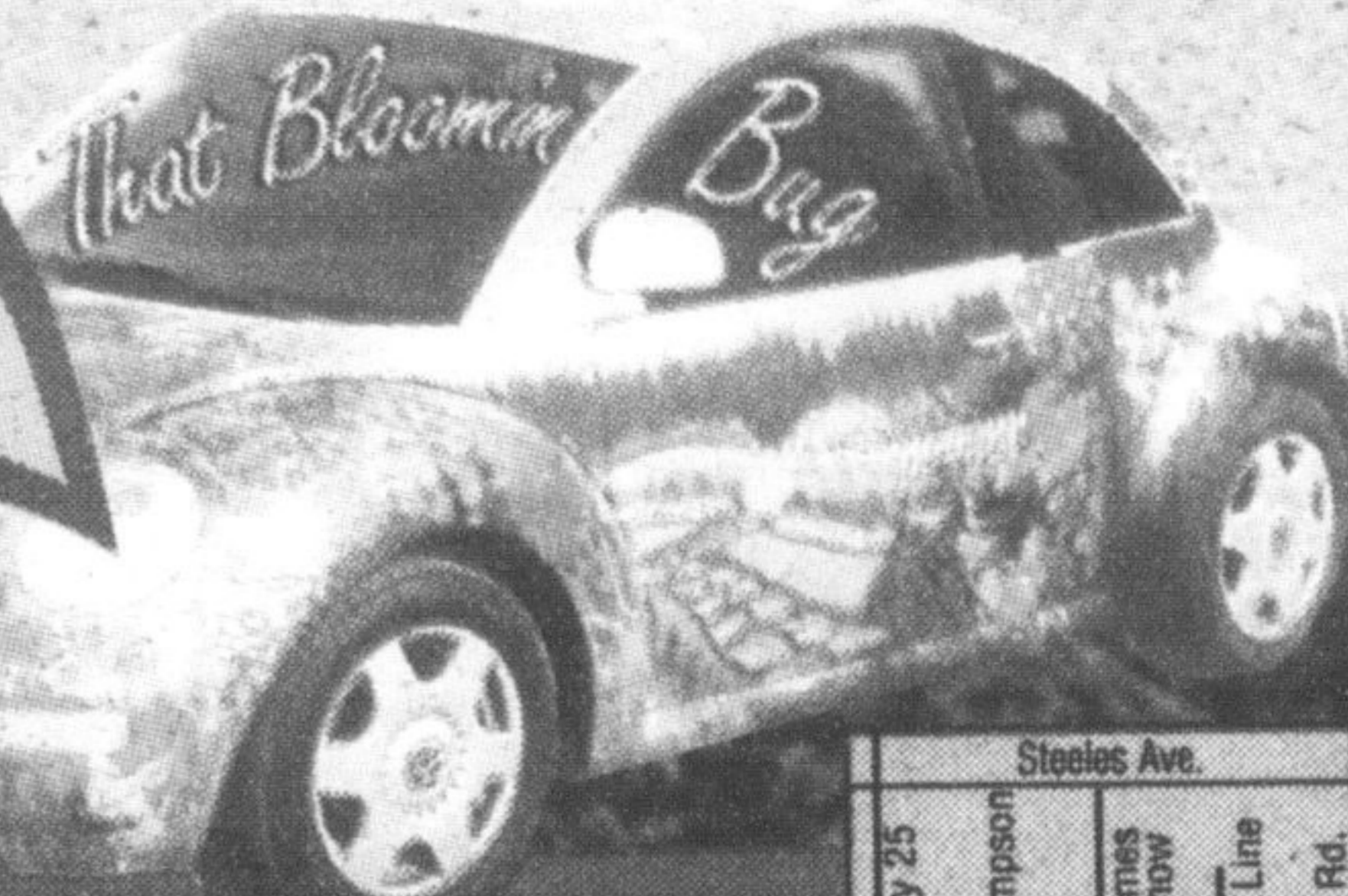
• Trees • Shrubs • Annuals • Perennials • Garden Antiques • Statuary
 • Water Gardening • Pottery • Heritage Blue Pot • Gravel • Sand • Soil

Taylor Nursery

7429 5th Line
At East End of Main St

(905) 876-4100

Roses
20% off



Sale Ends July 12/02

Hours
 Mon - Fri: 7:00am - 7:00pm
 Sat: 9-7 Sun: 10-5

27 years dedicated service

