

Home & GARDEN LAWN & GARDEN



Tips for a healthy garden

(NC)—Nothing is worse than watching your hard work in the garden change from bright coloured flowers to yellow and brown wilting stems. To help prevent this from happening to you, here are a few tips to keep your garden healthy from The Home Depot Canada's gardening expert, John Manz.

- Invest time and material into top-notch soil. Good blended soil will ensure healthier plants that are better able to ward off pests and disease. Work in plenty of sphagnum peat moss or compost - you'll be glad you did.

- Water your garden in the morning instead of the evening. This allows the plants to dry off quickly, preventing many fungal diseases and insect attack.

- Mulch with grass clippings, wood chips or other mulches as much as possible. This will reduce watering and weeding and prevent soil-borne pathogens from splashing onto plants during watering and rain.

- Don't allow your plants to get too dry. This stresses them, and stressed plants attract

pests and disease and have higher incidence of leaf and flower drop.

- Look at your plants daily. Get in the habit of taking a morning or evening stroll around the garden. Most problems can be stopped easily if detected early.

- Pinch off diseased plant parts. This will often slow or even stop the problem.

- Give plants the right light. Too much sun or too much shade stresses plants, making them more susceptible to problems.

- Choose the right plants. Pick plants that are well-suited to your region. However, Manz states that tropicals can be moved outdoors in the summer to add an exotic look to your patio or landscape.

- Keep your garden well weeded. Not only will it look better, but plants that have to compete for sun, water and nutrients are more likely to get diseases and pests.

For more tips about growing the perfect garden, pick up a copy of The Home Depot's Flower Gardening 1-2-3.

Container Gardening - Growing your garden in a box

(NC)—Gardening is one of Canada's fastest-growing outdoor leisure activities. For those who like gardening but don't have a large yard, container gardening is the perfect solution. To help you get started, the gardening team at Canadian

Tire offers the following unique ideas:

- To keep the garden current with the seasonal themes, change the plants with the seasons. Try:

Spring - tulips, pansies and pussy willows

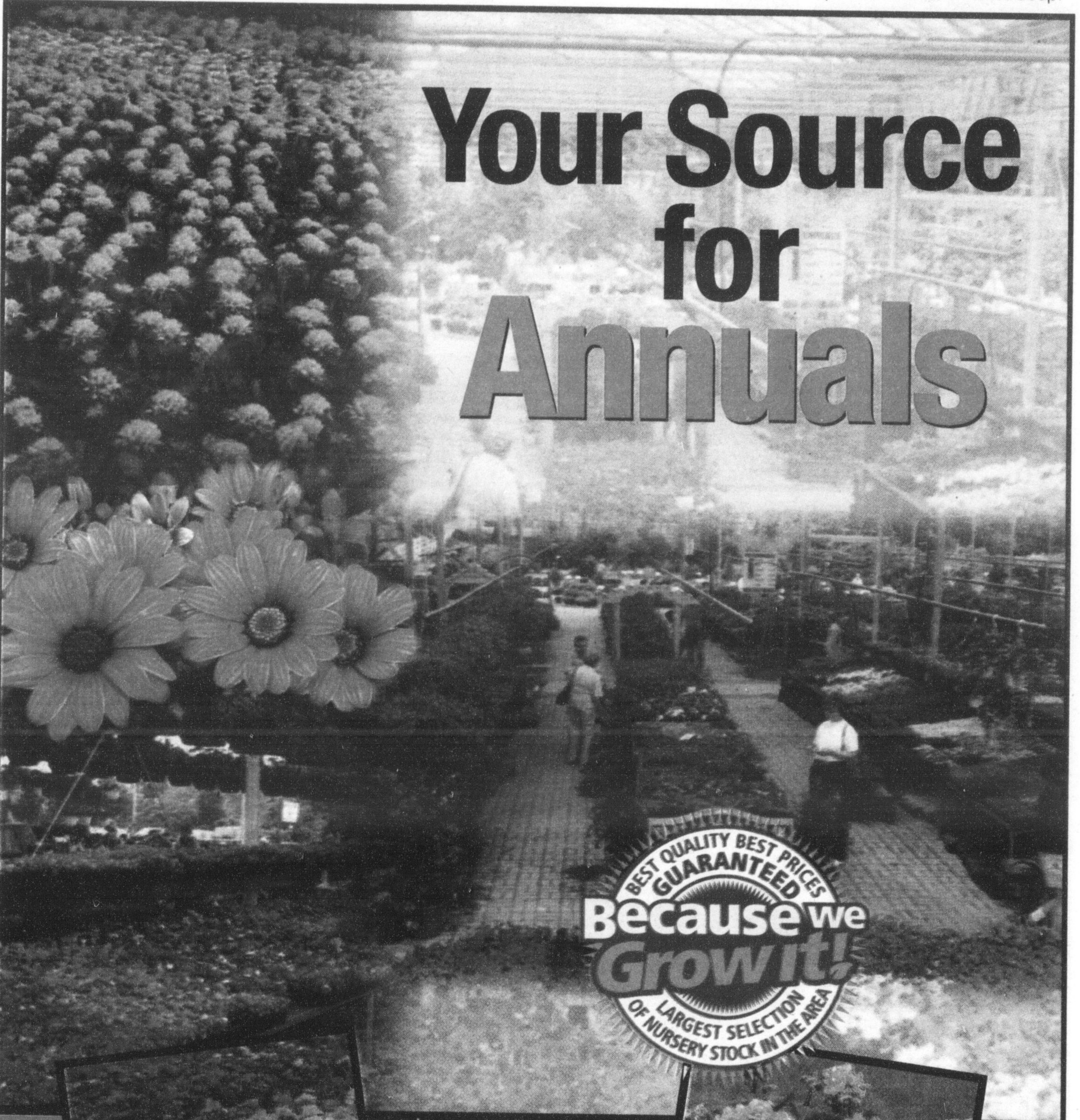
Summer - mixture of annuals
Fall - chrysanthemums, kale, fall pansies

- Buy a couple of extra containers for children to use as their very own first garden.

- Plant an herb garden for a constant supply of fresh herbs.

Basil, chives, parsley, marjoram and thyme are all easy to grow in containers.

- For apartment patios or cottage decks, try growing a vegetable container garden. Small vegetables will grow in pots as small as 5-inches deep.



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Learn how to use a fire extinguisher

(NC)—If used properly, a fire extinguisher can prevent a small fire from becoming a large one - causing serious damage.

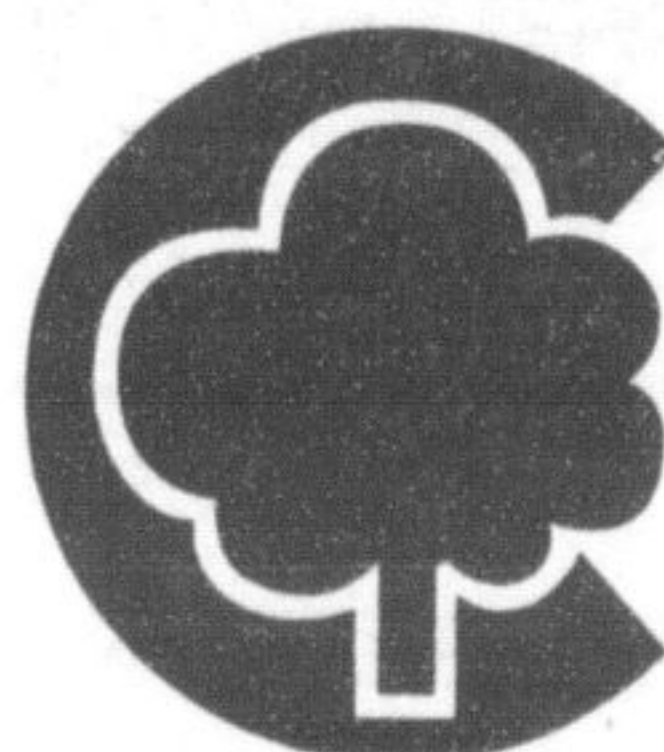
Remember PASS:

P = Pull the pin.

A = Aim at the base of the fire.

S = Squeeze the handle.

S = Sweep the extinguisher side to side to cover the base of the fire.



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