

LAWN & GARDEN

Five easy steps to earth friendly gardening

What better way to celebrate spring than by creating a beautiful,



eco-friendly garden. With a few simple practices and some help from the latest innovative gardening products you can enjoy your own private oasis and do what is right for the environment too. Consider the following "green" gardening suggestions:

1. Cut Out the Chemicals

Wean your garden off all synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. These substances promote rapid but weak plant growth, destroy soil fertility and are toxic to humans, wildlife and beneficial insects. Even organic chemicals are toxic, so use them as a last resort.

2. Use Water Wisely

To reduce water use, amend container soil with SoilSponge™, an all natural soil conditioner that adds up to 7 days between waterings. Disconnect your downspouts from the sewer system and direct water into garden beds or a rain barrel. "It is good practice to use soaker hoses instead of sprinklers, and water early in the morning.

3. Feed Your Soil Naturally

Plants thrive in healthy soil. Add compost or composted manures to your soil early in the spring, whenever you plant or transplant, and again in mid-summer. "Compost adds organic matter to the soil, aids in water retention and promotes biological activity.

4. Choose an Alternative to Peat Moss

A peat bog is a highly specialized ecosystem that removes carbon dioxide from the air, is home to many rare and important plant and animal species and acts as a cleansing watershed filter. Damage from the removal of peat from bogs takes hundreds of years to heal. New PeatEliminator™,

made from cocofibre, a coconut byproduct, improves drainage, soil aeration and friability and is the ideal pH for nutrient uptake.

5. Mulch, Mulch, Mulch, and Mulch Some More


A thick layer (8-10cm) of shredded bark, bark chips, grass clippings or shredded leaves spread on top of your garden soil will retain moisture, deter weeds and add needed organic matter to the soil. "Spread mulch in the spring after the soil thaws and again in late fall after the soil begins to freeze. Keep mulch 8 cm away from plant stems.

- News Canada

HOME, LAWN & Garden

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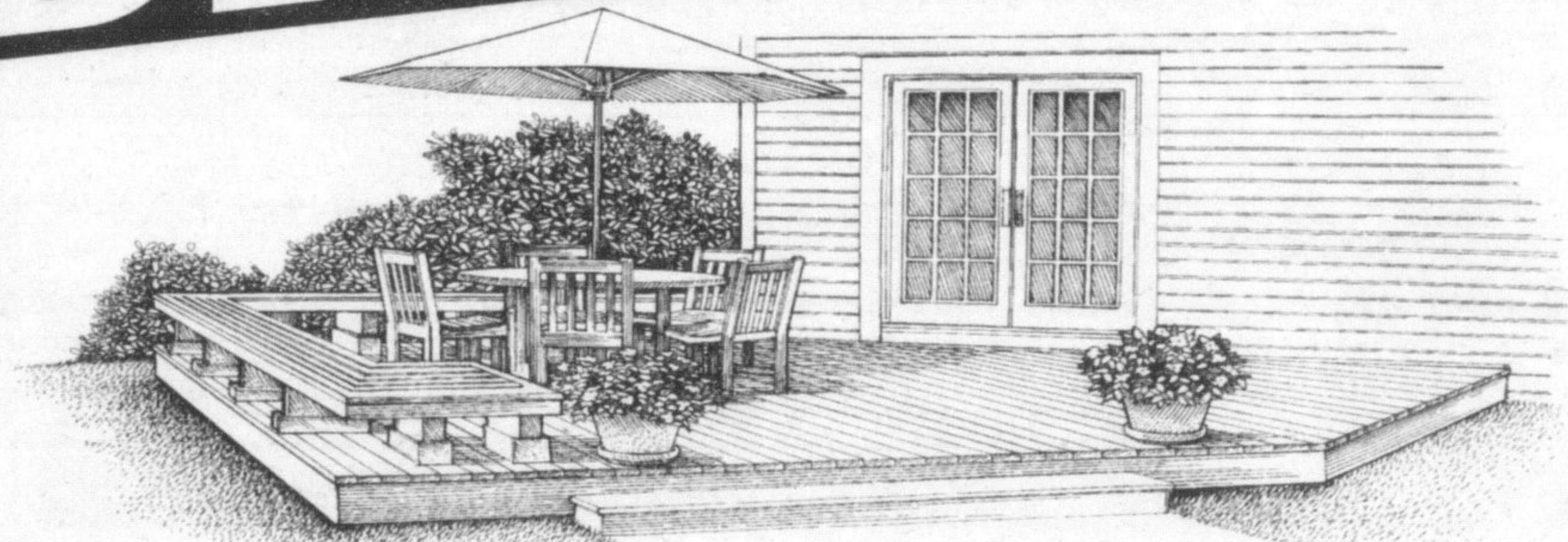
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