

Gardening

6 all-summer York Region perennials

By Lynda Nykor

A visit to local nurseries and garden centres this past weekend indicated many perennials are available for planting.

That's the nice thing about perennials — you can get out in the garden early, whereas annuals won't be ready to set out for awhile.

I've been a lover and "tryer-out" of perennials for years. I've come to the conclusion there are six that are really ideal.

This half-dozen will fill in a good-sized spot in the garden fairly quickly, but won't overpower everything else you've planted.

They're easy to start and don't require anything special in the way of care or feeding.

Once established, they'll bring beautiful bloom back to the garden year after year.

Harsh winters don't bother them unduly, either.

If you plant all six of them, you can be pretty well assured of continuous bloom here in York Region right through from spring until late fall.

The iris is the first to bloom. This has to be the easiest and most rewarding of all perennials.

It thrives on soils that would make other plants curl up and die.

The only work involved is in the root division that has to be done every few years.

And dividing will yield you more plants.

Iris nowadays come in a wide range of colors, with only true reds missing from the spectrum they offer.

Peonies and poppies bloom next. Both of these are among the loveliest sights in the late spring or early summer garden.

Poppies will spread to form good-sized clumps in about two years.

Peonies can be a little difficult to get started. Once established, they go on undisturbed for years.

Just make sure not to plant too deeply. About an inch to two inches of soil over the root is all that's necessary.

Day-lilies and phlox provide the summer color in the garden. Both of these now come in a wide range of colors.

Phlox is supposed to be susceptible to certain fungus diseases. I've never found it to be

anything but healthy in my garden.

For fall bloom, asters are the most reliable of plants. Seldom as showy as chrysanthemums, they're nevertheless easy to start.

By the second year after planting, they can usually be divided to get additional plants.

All of these perennials love a sunny location, but I've found the iris will grow in a quite shady location.

Day-lilies, too, will find a partially shady spot acceptable.

Small lot gardening talk Tuesday

How to make the most of gardening on a small lot will be the topic for guest speaker Murray Hutchinson, East York horticulturalist, at the next meeting of Thornhill Horticultural Society.

Early spring flowers will be featured in the garden show the same evening, Tuesday, May 17 at 8 p.m. in Heintzman House.

Clematis is a beautiful flowering vine

Add variety and color to your garden this year. Plant flowering vines.

"Clematis is one of the most beautiful flowering vines," says T.J. Blom, Ontario minister of agriculture and food horticulturist.

Clematis is a shrubby, deciduous and winter-hardy climber with striking flowers and leaves of three leaflets. The flowers, which consist of four to six sepals, are usually pink, purple, red or white.

This unusual plant is a native of China, although there is one type which is common in the Niagara Peninsula.

Clematis vines are available at most garden

centers. They should be planted now in an area which receives five to six hours of sunlight.

"This plant prefers shade at the base of the vine but the top of the plant can take quite a bit of sun," says Blom. However, it is not advisable to plant the vines on the south side of the house.

"Because Clematis vines are deep-rooted, they should be planted at least 1-1/2 feet deep on a trellis or wire support."

The vine grows very quickly and attaches itself easily to a trellis or other types of support.

Clematis grows well in alkaline soils with a pH of about seven. The soil

should be kept moist but well drained.

Clematis can be overwintered if the plants are protected with a straw and soil covering at the soil line.

New vines should be pruned to eight inches at planting. Each following year dead wood should be removed carefully and the live wood pruned in early spring.

READ The Liberal



TOWN OF VAUGHAN NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS TO DESTROY NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given to every person in possession of land within the Town of Vaughan, in accordance with The Weed Control Act, Ontario, that unless noxious weeds or weed seeds are destroyed by June 1st, 1977, and throughout the season, the Municipality may enter upon said lands to cause the noxious weeds or weed seeds to be destroyed, charging the costs against the land in taxes as set out in the Act.

In the interest of public health, noxious weeds requiring eradication as they appear are Goat's-Beard, Chicory, Thistles, Ragweed, Poison Ivy, Wild Carrot, etc.

Although Dandelions, Burdock and Goldenrod are not considered noxious weeds within the Town of Vaughan under The Weed Control Act, the co-operation of all citizens is solicited in the elimination of these nuisance weeds.

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