

# Gardening

## Build a lawn right way

The key to a weed-free "putting green" lawn is to obtain a dense, healthy turf before seeding.

Factors such as the kinds of weeds found on the area, drainage, soil type, soil nutrients, sunlight, and planned lawn use influence the growth of new lawns, says C.G. Waywell, department of horticultural science, Ontario Agricultural College.

Home gardeners can use a mixture of herbicides such as paraquat and diquat to control both broadleaf and grass-family weeds. Both herbicides are absorbed through the leaves, with little effect through the soil.

Professor Waywell suggests cultivating only after the weeds begin to die.

Grading the lawn to provide surface lawn drainage is the next step.

A soil sample should then be taken and tested for acidity. This will determine the need for fertilizers. The department of land resource science at the University of Guelph, provides this service to home gardeners for \$1 per sample.

When the turf is ready to be seeded, select a kind of grass that will adapt to the location. Bent grasses

provide a country club finish to lawns, but require more care than other types.

Kentucky Blue grass is suitable for sunny sites, and Creeping Red Fescue suits shady or busy areas.

Mowing height is important in preserving a healthy lawn. Lawn mowers should be set at 1½ to 2 inches so sufficient leaf surface will remain to provide for the plant's needs.

# Annuals give you most color with least effort

By Lynda Nykor

It's almost Victoria Day weekend, the traditional time for setting out annuals in the garden here in York Region.

Though annuals, as their name implies, only last one summer they have a number of useful functions.

They reach their full growth in a season, so they're ideal for filling up bare spots in the garden quickly. Plant them around a young shrub that won't fill up its allotted space this year.

Use them to edge a perennial garden, for lots of colorful bloom at the front of the garden.

Annuals are also ideal for container gardening. They can just be discarded when frost comes and its time to store the containers.

The best thing about annuals is the fact they bloom continuously all summer.

These plants reproduce themselves only by seed. They don't have to use their energies to strengthen roots to survive over winter. They keep blooming to produce as much seed as possible in a season.

The more flowers you pick, the more the plant will produce.

There are a number of things you can do to get maximum performance out of your annuals.

When planting, soak the seedlings with a transplant solution. This will get them off to a good, healthy start and get them blooming early.

Pinch the tops out of any single-stemmed annuals so they branch out and get bushier, with more flower-producing stems.

You will, of course, have made sure the bed the plants are to be set into has loose, rich soil.

If it hasn't, correct this by adding peat moss, sand, well-rotted manure and top soil.

We seem to have had a lot of wind this spring and very little rain, so if these conditions persist, make sure to water regularly.

Don't allow tender annual seedlings to dry out too severely.

Even if they survive, they'll need most of the rest of the summer to recuperate, and won't produce as much bloom as they should.

Fertilize annuals once a month at the least, with a complete plant food. I find a 20-20-20 formula works well.

And when you go to garden centres and nurseries to buy your seedlings, there are a few things to keep in mind.

Don't buy plants that look leggy or unhealthy.

Time for Spring Planting ... is here again

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### Outdoor gardening talk night

If you haven't got your hands into the garden yet, chances are you're just waiting for the next warm weekend. In the meantime you can attend a one-evening talk on various aspects of outdoor gardening.

It happens Thursday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.

Hal Price of the North Toronto Horticultural Society will have gardening tips and answer your questions.

The program is free at Pleasant View library, 575 Van Horne Ave. at Brian Dr. in the Victoria Park-Finch area.

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## 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.

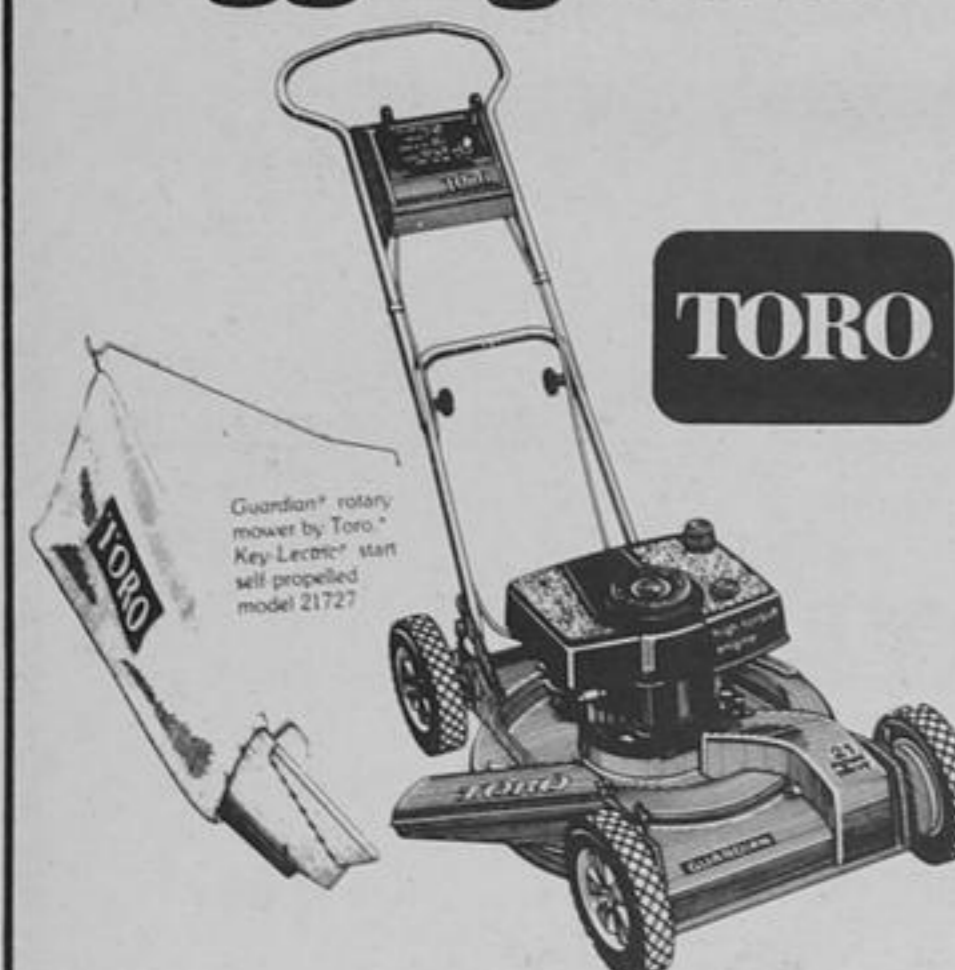
In the interest of public health, noxious weeds requiring eradication as they appear are Goat's-Beard, Chicory, Thistles, Ragweed, Poison Ivy, Wild Carrot, etc.

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.

G.A. WILLIAMS Mayor

J.L. MADILL Weed Inspector

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