

GARDEN GUIDE

By JOHN BRADSHAW

Many a would-be gardener wishes to dash out to the nursery or garden centre, buy some perennial or biennial plants in bloom and create a flowering garden overnight.

Such plants correctly grown in containers will go a long way towards fulfilling such a plan, but it will be quite expensive. This is especially true when you consider that once the blooms of the biennials have faded away the plants will die.

Biennials are plants which are started in late spring or summer one year, for bloom the following garden season. Once their flowering period is over they die.

Forget-me-nots, Canterbury bells and Siberian wall-flowers are examples of true biennials. However, there are a group of plants which are technically classed as perennials in locations where the winters are mild, but in southern Ontario are so short lived they're best handled as biennials. Hollyhocks, violas, pansies and foxgloves are typical examples of the latter category.

Many home gardeners say to me that some of their biennials survive from year to year, and this certainly does seem to happen. You can be certain that the original roots do not survive. The new plants are self sown from the previous year's seed, particularly in the case of hollyhocks and Sweet Williams. The resulting plants are hardly worth keeping as the seed will not produce plants true to the original variety or color.

A friend of mine who has only recently started to garden, said to me the other day "Why bother with biennials at all isn't it much more convenient to use either annuals or perennials?" If we didn't use biennials, we'd be depriving our mixed borders, foundation plantings and rock gardens of some of their most charming flowering plants. It's the biennials that add character to the garden, relieve the monotony of the annuals and provide the gardener with a much wider choice of flowering plants. A mixed border without clumps of violas or pansies planted in groups down the front of it, some canterbury bells planted in the centre portion, and tall hollyhocks and foxgloves at the back, would have much less color, beauty and charm.

Just as soon as you've had two or three years gardening experience, it's time to broaden your sights and start growing plants from seed. Be a little patient and sow some biennial seeds in the next few weeks. Next year you'll not only have a group of plants in the garden that cost only a fraction of the amount you'd pay for ready-grown plants, but you can have varieties not normally available as started plants at nurseries and garden centres.

Have you ever seen a foxglove in full bloom? This biennial known also botanically as digitalis, grows three to seven feet high, and the huge flowering spikes are crowded with lovely bell-like flowers. The plants grow stately and erect, rightfully earning a preferred place at the back of the border.

Seed should be sown now for blooming next summer. It may seem a long time from late June until next summer, but your patience will be rewarded to the fullest when you see the towering spikes of foxglove in bloom.

We try to sow foxgloves earlier than most other biennials because it takes longer for them to produce plants large enough to flower the following year. My advice would be to get the seeds in the ground as soon as possible. Summer temperatures are much too high for the germination of most biennial seeds. Foxgloves like the temperature to be well below 70 degrees at night in order to germinate. Soils warmed by the hot sun prevent this from happening.

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With the coming of machinery on a mass production basis, the Fleury firm was sold. The name, however is still familiar.

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Farm

Tribune

FARMING REPORT

by AL WALL

The biggest factor in the farm business is still the amount of rain we have had in the last two weeks. Up to last Thursday, our total rain was almost 8 inches since the deluge started. This is over four times the normal amount for the whole month of June.

The results of flooding on crops is quite obvious. Poor colour indicates stunted growth on plants unable to grow and take up plant food normally. Lots of crops were literally drowned. Progress for ones that are still alive will depend on growing conditions from here in.

There were some unusual effects. Weed killers, Atrazine in particular, with abundant moisture worked so well that in several fields it not only killed weeds, but damaged corn as well. Corn in one field at Newmarket, with a double rate applied, was damaged very seriously.

This has not happened before, and we didn't think it could happen. So with benefit of hindsight, we now know that with lots of moisture, Atrazine rates should be cut back to two pounds.

Weed spraying schedules are in a mess this year anyway. It just hasn't been possible to get spray on at the right time. However, grain can still be sprayed safely up to the shot blade stage. Legume seedlings should not be sprayed if they have gone past the four leaf stage; and it is risky to put 2,4-D on corn if it's more than six inches

high. Corn growers who have not got Atrazine on yet, should consider getting drop pipes and changing to either Linuron or 2,4-D. If these sprays can be kept off the corn leaves, they are safe, and will knock off a lot of weeds.

More and more people are asking about haylage this year. It's a good system because good hay weather is not so crucial for it. Hay should be chopped for haylage just before it's ready to bale, or when the leaves on top of the windrow start to shatter.

Chopping and blowing haylage is the most frequent problem on the start.

The length of cut has to be short, and the knives sharpened often. A dribble of water in the blower, will prevent gum build up. Filling should be fast but if there is any interruption, a few wet loads on top will cut the risk of spoilage.

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A Centennial Farm In Markham

MARKHAM — At the intersection of 19th Avenue and concession 7, Markham Township, is the lovely farm property of Thomas E. Hastings. Except for the centennial sign that is prominently displayed at the laneway entrance, it is difficult to believe that the property has been retained in the Hastings family name for well over 100 years — 138 to be exact. The original buildings still stand but the house has been completely remodelled. The farm is called 'Willow Hill'.

Of the 100 acres acquired by Thomas Edward Hastings in 1829, only 35 acres remain. The remainder has been sold off in ten acre lots. He settled the land following his arrival in Canada from Ireland. The name has been handed down through each of the following four generations. Following his death, his wife Sarah obtained the farm by Crown Deed in 1849 and passed it on to a son, Thomas Edward. He married Matilda Jane Thompson who had three children, Annie, Marie and Thomas. The son took over the property and was married to Helen Poole. They had two children, a son Thomas and a daughter, Annie. The present Thomas Hastings was married to Kathleen Wurm. They have two daughters, Barbara (Mrs. Bert Brillinger) Markham, R.R.2; Karen, employed with the Children's Aid Society in Toronto and one son, Thomas Eric, a grade 13 student at Stouffville District High School. There are also two grandchildren; Stacy, 5 and Todd, 1 month.

Egg Producers Advised On Summer Problems

Egg quality may drop during the hot summer months unless producers spend extra time and effort in handling eggs, says Dr. J. D. Summers, Poultry Science Department, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph.

Maintaining a high egg quality is one of the main problems facing producers during the summer. The answer lies mainly in the proper handling, storage, and marketing of eggs. More frequent egg collection is necessary during the summer. Putting eggs into storage as quickly as possible keeps them from deteriorating. Moving eggs to market at least two or three times a week also helps, advises Dr. Summers. These extra efforts during the summer pay in keeping quality up to the same standards maintained during other times of the year.

Experience shows that feed consumption during the hot months may drop

10 to 20 percent. If protein levels are not kept up during this period, egg size may be reduced. Dietary protein level should be increased to compensate for the lower total feed consumption. Hens cannot continue to produce the same size and quantity of eggs unless they are taking in the proper amount of protein for that level of production.

Related to feed consumption is shell quality. With the lower feed consumption goes a lower intake of calcium. To remedy this, extra calcium should be added to the feed, or oyster shell should be fed free choice.

A plentiful supply of clean fresh water is important in helping to keep feed consumption up, adds Dr. Summers.

Ventilation of the hen house is more important during summer months than at any other time of the year. Use of extra fans to keep the hen cool is a good idea.

Ray Fleury

Namesake Of Famous Company

STOUFFVILLE — Ray Fleury of Stouffville is a namesake of the once-famous Fleury Plow Company that had its factory site in Stouffville from 1885 to 1900. A branch plant was also located at Aurora.

The Stouffville location was on the site of the present Co-op store and feed mill. The factory moved here from Markham. Alex

Fleury and four sons, Arthur, Bert, Peter and Seth operated the thriving business and a Fleury implement was a common piece of equipment on almost every farm.

Mr. Fleury, a resident on Warriner Street in Stouffville, can recall working at the plant as a boy from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. He earned

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First, stop your car parallel to the car parked in the space ahead with the rear bumpers even and the cars about two feet apart. Switch on your curb-side turn signal.

Now turn your wheels fully toward the curb and back up slowly until your steering wheel comes parallel with the rear bumper of the parked car.

At this point, straighten the wheels and continue backing until your front bumper is even with the parked car's rear bumper. Then turn the wheels hard in the opposite direction to the curb as you continue to back up.

Stop when the front wheels touch the curb, straighten the wheels and move slowly forward to mid-position in the parking space. Your tires should be only a few inches from the curb.

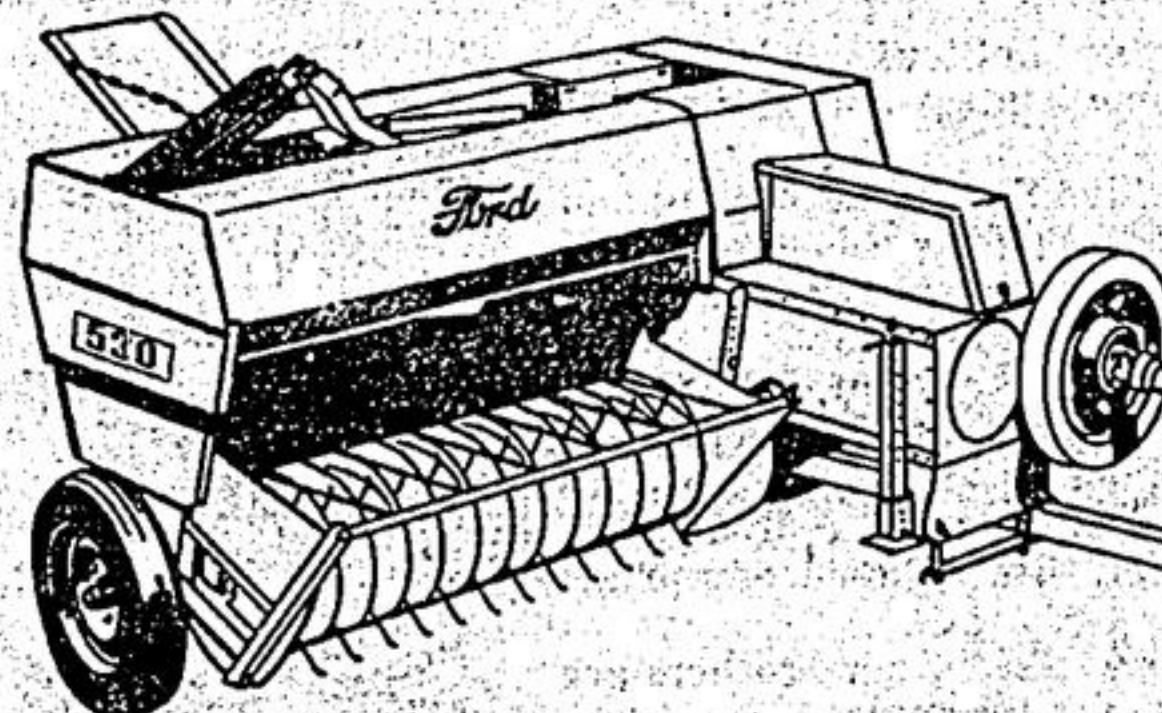
It's simple, but very few motorists do it correctly. These steps may help you to avoid fender and bumper dents that are costly to repair, and significantly reduce the resale value of your car if left unattended.

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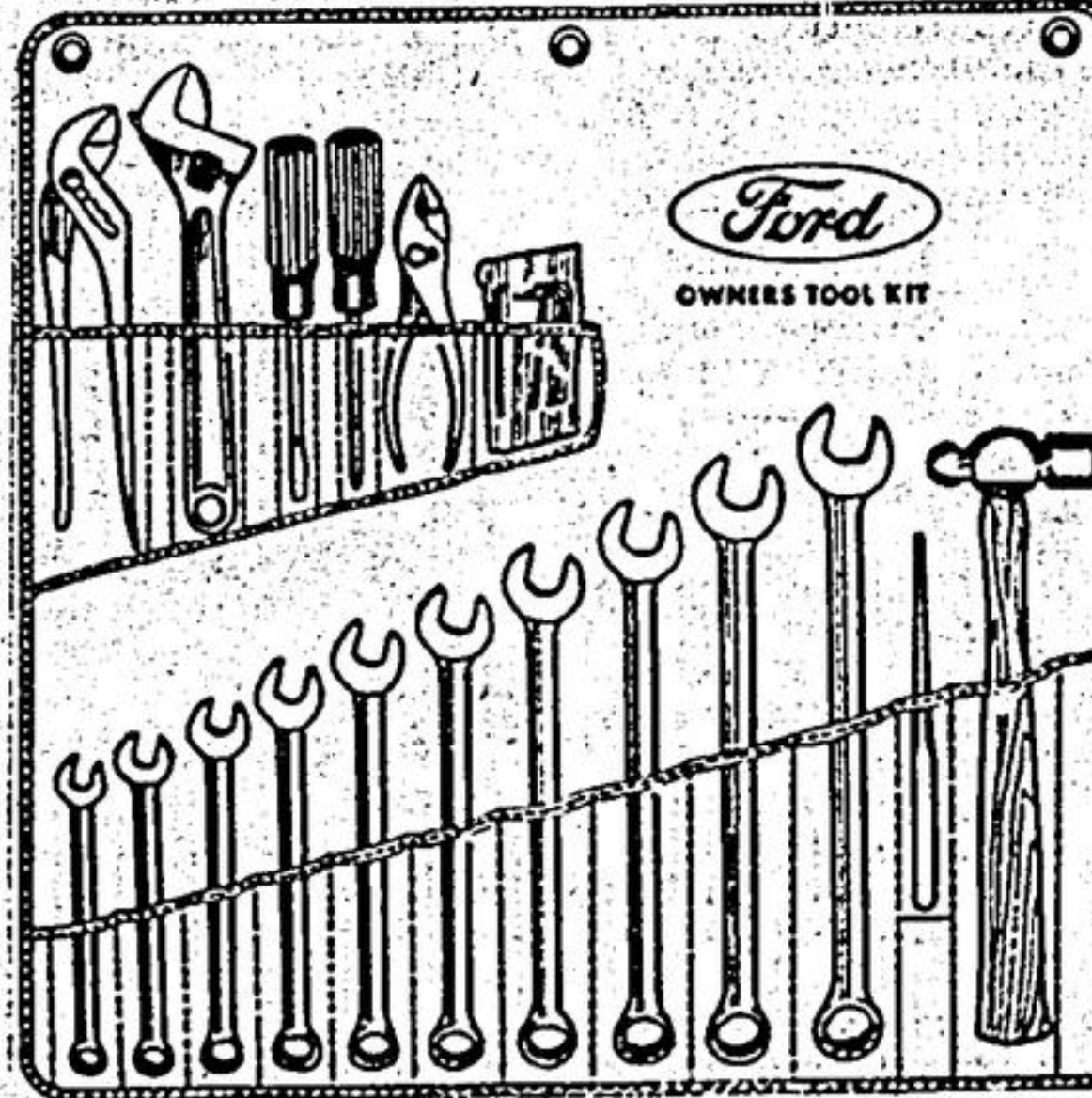
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