

There's plenty of insects that plague houseplants

Whiteflies, aphids and spider mites were mentioned a while back in a previous column as some of the insects that can plague houseplants. Here's a few more worth knowing about because of their debilitating effect on indoor greenery.

Scale insects look like raised dots clustered under leaves and clinging to stems. Wash with soapy (not detergent) water, or scrub off their flat, hard shells with a cotton swab/old toothbrush dipped in rubbing alcohol, or handpick if there's not many (and only if you're not squeamish!).

Mealy bugs are slow moving and resemble tiny pieces of white fuzz assembled beneath foliage and on junctions of leaves and stems. Try washing off with a forceful stream of tepid water, or use insecticidal soap, or dab individually with a rubbing alcohol soaked cotton swab, or handpick if limited in number.

Fungus gnats are tiny nuisances — like fruit flies — and quick elimination is sometimes easier said than done especially when there is a lot of plants involved.

To kill larvae feeding in the soil, try drenching the soil after a houseplant insecticide dust has been added. Use an insecticidal soap spray on adult gnats.

When severe infestations require che-



Green 'n Growing

Elaine Gordon

mical sprays, take every caution to avoid skin absorption by wearing gloves and don't inhale fumes or allow spray near eyes.

Always apply in a well-ventilated area preferably outdoors, and never near food stuffs, birds, aquariums or pet food bowls. It is wise to keep children and pets away from chemically treated plants, too.

HELPFUL HINTS Use a potato peeler for popping up weeds in hard to reach places. The tumbling foliage from a large and mature ivy can be equally as effective on a plant stand as in a hanging basket.

A turkey baster has another function when used for terrarium or seed waterings.

DID YOU KNOW: Many years ago, mashed Columbine roots were rubbed on joints that ached.

Large turnout expected for Terry Fox 10 km run

In the spirit of the Kinsmen Club, the word is 'Bring a Friend' to help raise money for cancer in Markham's 5th annual Terry Fox 10-km run on Sept. 15.

"Anyone can come and run it, walk it, bike it, roller skate it, or anything else," said run organizer Bob Noble, of the Markham Kinsmen.

The rain or shine event starts at 10 a.m. at Markham District High School. Mr. Noble said organizers hope to top last year's

contribution of \$5,000 to cancer research raised by the more than 80 runners who participated.

"Hopefully, we'll get a lot of people to show up just for the exercise," Mr. Noble noted. "We'd like to have at least 150 participants this year."

Pledge forms can be obtained at Shopper's Drug Mart, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Collegiate Sports, or the post office. For more information, call Bob Noble at 294-9713.

Dinner for Premier almost a sellout

A 1,500-seat Richmond Hill complex is the site for Premier David Peterson's first major fundraising event since the May 2 election.

"We thought we might be able to sell about 1,000 seats," said event chairman Dennis Mills about the \$250-a-plate dinner. "The response has been overwhelming. We probably couldn't sell 50 more."

The Sept. 12 dinner, being held at the Richmond Green Sports Centre on Elgin Mills Rd. E. was a second choice. Organizers found out construction of the almost-completed complex was six

weeks ahead of schedule and chose it over Buttonville Airport.

Mr. Mills said the response for the first major fundraiser ever held in York Region included both large and small businesses and added that it "is a reflection of Peterson's widespread popularity."

The dinner will be less formal than past fundraisers and Mr. Mills said the usual head table will be noticeably absent. The Premier and guests will sit at regular tables towards the front of the room. The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Barry Appleton at 477-9222.

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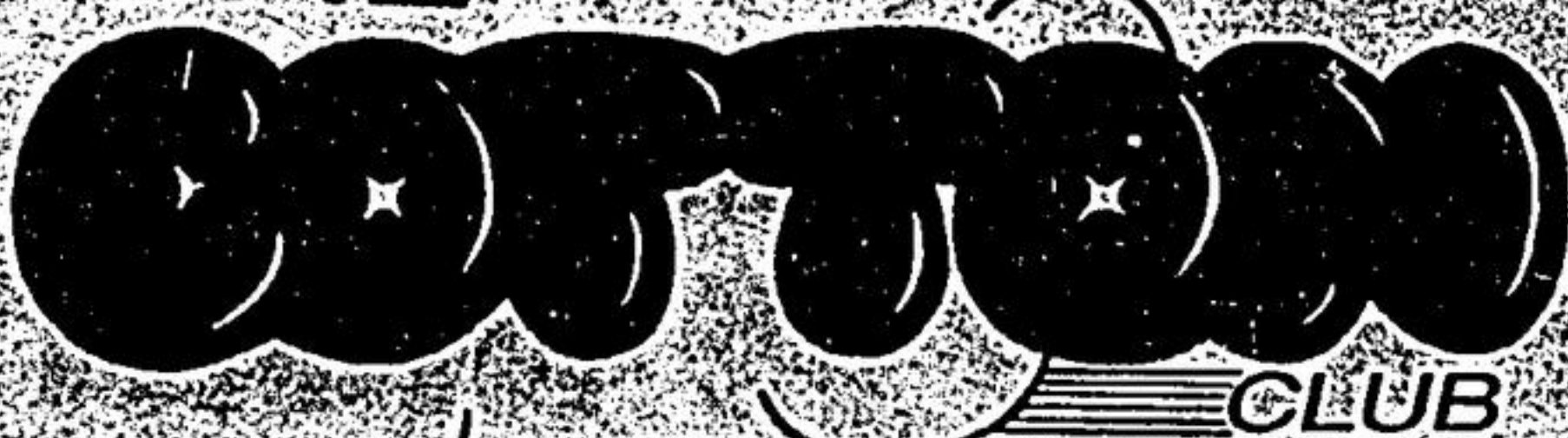
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Note: Applicants must be single between the ages of 18 and 24, and live in the area bounded by Steeles Ave. (south) and Yonge Street (west), and Pickering Town Line (east).

Please submit your application no later than September 14, 1985.

To: Miss Markham Fair Contest
c/o 272 Main Street North
Markham, Ontario
L3P 1Y8

or
Miss Markham Fair Contest
c/o Miss Carrie Purcell
R.R.#2
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