



Instructions from an expert

A 4-H Plowing Club has been organized in York Region. Last week, members put their skills to the test at a match held on the property of Savagedale Farms in Vaughan. Here, club leader

Floyd Forsyth, (left) of Stouffville provides pointers for Murray Meek, (seated), and Scott Stover, both of Markham.

— Jim Thomas

Green 'n Growing

Elaine Gordon



The backyard — a private oasis

What could be more relaxing on a hazy, lazy day than being ensconced barefoot in a comfortable lounge chair accompanied by a cool drink and that bestselling book you had hoped to find time to read?

Quiet thoughts are restored as cares temporarily drift away on the fragrant summer's breeze!

More and more, people are enjoying their backyards as retreats from hectic lives. Or as outdoor entertainment rooms. Or simply because they love nature and find solace abounds when one is surrounded by flower beds a bloom, lush greenery and the joyful song of birds.

As busy gardeners are always keen in adding unique plants to their private oasis, perhaps growing a Money Plant or a Gas Plant would be of interest.

Honesty or Money Plant (*Lunaria annua*) is an old-fashioned biennial (takes two seasons for flowering) whose translucent pods complement many dried flower arrangements.

It's also known by the name of Silver Dollar because the papery, flat, round discs look like coins. Honesty is self-sowing, grows about 2' high with a 1' spread, likes average soil in a well-drained area of sun or part shade and flowers early summer.

The Gas Plant (*Dictamnus*) is an unusual perennial because the oil it produces in the upper stem below the inflorescence

(flower) is said to ignite if lit after a warm day.

It has dark green, aromatic foliage and grows to a 2' or 3' height with a 2' spread which is ideal for the center of a well-drained bed in rich soil where sun or light shade is received. White or pink flower spikes appear in June and July.

This attractive plant dislikes transplanting so it is best left undisturbed. It's longlasting when established and staking is unnecessary.

HELPFUL HINTS:

Peonies or Bleeding Hearts are excellent when planted close by bulbs as they camouflage withering foliage after bulbs have flowered.

A chopstick is a handy tool for teasing out roots before a houseplant is placed in an upgraded pot.

Plant ivy up walkways and across the length at the back of a flight of steps for an interesting entrance effect.

Guild holds meeting

The general meeting of the Markham Guild of Village Crafts is approaching and everyone is welcome to attend.

The speaker will be Jeanne Field of Rittermere, Hurstfield, who will discuss native art, particularly as it relates to rug hooking.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. at the Guild's 98 Church St. location.



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Kim Linton



Joanne Witt

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