

# Scented geraniums an aromatic addition to bath after hard day in garden

A few years ago a plant named Citrosa was offered for sale at prices of up to \$25 each. The promoters claimed that one plant per room or one plant every five feet outdoors would repel all insects. They insisted that this plant had been genetically altered by modern bioengineering techniques.

Unfortunately, the whole thing was a horticultural hoax - the old adage, "when something sounds too good to be true it usually is," certainly fits here. The plant was, in fact, a scented geranium (correctly Pelargonium), probably a cross between P. citronellum and P. graveolens. Although it did not repel mosquitoes, it did focus attention to the group of plants called "Scented Geraniums." These plants are grown not for the beauty of their blooms (although some do have lovely flowers) but for the fragrance that is released from their foliage by misting or brushing the leaves. These were Grandma's room deodorizers and have long been grown in Europe for the manufacture of geranium oil used in the perfume and cosmetic industry. They make good windowsill plants during the winter and excellent container and garden plants in the summer. Like herbs and all plants that have aromatic foliage they are drought tolerant.

There are more than 100 varieties of scented geraniums to choose from and they differ widely. Leaves vary in size from that of your baby fingernail to your whole hand. The shape may be broad and uncut to so finely divided that it could be described as lace-like. Height may range from 8 inches to 3 feet in one year. The scent may be classified as fruit, mint, rose, spice or simply pungent. The leaves may be gray, green or variegated with cream. Some varieties rarely bloom

while others such as 'Clorinda' have large pink flowers.

Plant scented geraniums along walkways, up stairs - wherever you might brush past them and release their fragrances. Use the leaves of rose, mint or fruit fragrances to flavor cakes, sugars and teas. Add dried leaves to potpourris and sachets.

After a strenuous session in the garden, throw



## Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

some scented leaves into the tub, run hot water and create your own aromatherapy.

I hope you are planning to attend Canada Blooms next week. It will run from Wednesday, March 5 to Sunday, March 9 at the Toronto Congress Centre at Dixon Road and Hwy 401. I will be presenting seminars Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and Friday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. For more information call 1-800-BLOOMS.

Send questions or comments to:

Let's Get Growing  
c/o The Tribune,  
88 Brock St. West,  
Uxbridge, Ont., L9P 1R4  
Attn: Marjorie Mason Hogue

# Get your chuckles tonight at comedy extravaganza

Yuk Yuk's Comedy Extravaganza is one of the highlights of this year's Claremont Winter Carnival.

An evening of superb stand-up comedy, featuring Canadian comic all-stars David Merry and Mike Bullard of Yuk Yuk's 'touring team' will be followed by a games night.

The venue is the Legion Hall, the date is Saturday, March 1 and doors open at 8 p.m., with the show beginning at 9 p.m.

This special evening is hosted by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 483, which is now run entirely by volunteers. Proceeds from the event will be donated to charity and community organizations.

Tickets are \$10 at the door. They are available at the Claremont Corner Store or by calling 649-2295.

High voltage comedy is guaranteed. Come out, support your community and enjoy an evening of fun with friends and neighbors.

# Sale of unwanted autos benefits Kids Help Phone

It's a win, win, win situation for donors, Kids Help Phone and the environment when donors choose to dispose of their unwanted vehicles through the AADCO vehicle disposal service.

Callers can donate the proceeds of the sale of their unwanted cars, trucks, vans, snowmobiles, boats,

industrial equipment, or farm motorized equipment, any type, any location, any condition to Kids Help Phone.

Donors should call the number for the Kids Help Phone Vehicle Pickup Line at 1-888-350-KIDS (1-888-350-5437) and AADCO Vehicle Disposal Service will assume responsibility for the vehicle's disposal through dealer auctions or by sale to scrap dealers or wreckers.

This is a fast and easy way to remove unwanted vehicles from the neighbourhood, and the owner can avoid the expense and hassle of advertising and certifying their vehicle.

Donors will receive a charitable tax receipt from Kids Help Foundation for the amount of their sale.

More than \$18,000 has been donated to Kids Help Phone since this program began in 1995. As Canada's only national, toll-free, bilingual, 24-hour professional counselling service for children and teens, Kids Help Phone receives more than 4,000 calls a day from across Canada.



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