

Summer drought is hard on even most hardy plants



Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

It is now the middle of summer and unlike last year, our gardens are suffering greatly from drought.

After a cold but dry spring we have had a slightly cooler but very dry summer. Except where there are patches of clover, my grassy walkways are golden brown — it makes one wonder why we don't plant more clover.

Even some of the usually drought-tolerant plants are in difficulty. A stroll through my rather crispy xeriscape (unwatered garden) showed some plants are still real performers: *Scabiosa ochroleuca* — a tall lemon-yellow pincushion flower; *Origanum 'Herrenhauser'* — an ornamental oregano; *Achillea 'Parker's Variety'* — a four-foot-tall yarrow with five-inch-wide heads of golden bloom; *Sedum maximum atropurpureum* standing three feet tall with deep burgundy foliage soon to be crowned by clusters of pink blooms; *Eupatorium rugosum*, a shorter white flowered version of Joe-Pye-Weed which tolerates dry shade very well and, of course, lavender and creeping thyme.

Most at risk are newly-planted trees and shrubs which don't show signs of stress until they suddenly die.

The shredded cedar mulch which usually keeps my soil moist has dried so much that an hour of sprinkling simply moistens the mulch rather than penetrating the soil — at least two hours is needed in each location.

Most at risk this summer are newly-planted trees and shrubs which often don't show signs of stress until they suddenly die.

Monica Jans was wondering if the use of a bark chip mulch would prevent natural seeding of perennials and biennials. I'm afraid this is one of the drawbacks of using bark mulches.

Just as it prevents weed germination, so it hinders sprouting of desirable seeds. However, the use of a gravel mulch actually encourages the reseeding of both the desirables and the undesirables.

Cathy Dymond asks about the best winter mulch to protect perennials. Fortunately, the best fall mulch is

absolutely free. It's the same one that Mother Nature uses in her forests — simply leaves, preferably chopped up and applied two-to-three inches deep and topped with compost or rotted manure.

This mulch should be placed on the garden in November after growth has ceased.

Its purpose is not to keep the plants warm, but to keep the soil frozen and to prevent it from thawing during winter's mild spells.

Straw, shredded cedar or forest mulch are excellent summer mulches applied in early to mid June. They will conserve moisture, prevent weeds and eventually break down and become soil.

Lois Burkholder asked if I would comment on my favorite books for Canadian gardeners.

Two tree and shrub books that I find particularly help-

ful are *Gardening With Trees and Shrubs* by Trevor Cole of Ottawa (Whitecap Books) and *Lois Hole's Favourite Trees and Shrubs* (Lone Pine Publishing).

Lois lives in Alberta and only discusses very hardy plants.

If you are wondering about a suitable question or comment to allow you access to the Box of Bulbs Contest simply send your name, address and title of your favorite gardening book, either your old stand-by or your newest find.

Write to:

Let's Get Growing
c/o The Tribune,
88 Brooke St. West,
Uxbridge, Ont., L9P 1P4,
Attn: Marjorie Mason Hogue.

Save up to 33% On Selected Paint

Painter's Choice® Interior Eggshell Latex (3060)

- Deluxe scrubbable low sheen finish
- 100's of pastel colors

SAVE 33% 19⁹⁶ 3.78L
*Our reg. low price 29.96

The Outsider Exterior Gloss Alkyd (5700)

- Ideal for doors, trim and cavestroughs
- Wide range of colors

SAVE 25% 24⁷² 3.78L
*Our reg. low price 32.96

The Outsider Exterior Flat Acrylic (5900)

- Specially formulated for stucco, wood and concrete

SAVE 25% 22⁴⁷ 3.78L
*Our reg. low price 29.96

Exterior Acrylic Latex Stain (6700)

- Low sheen solid color
- Wide range of colors

SAVE 25% 14⁹⁶ 3.78L
*Our reg. low price 19.96

Color Your World®

Home Decorating

Great Value

In-Store Wallpaper & Borders

From 3⁹⁹ Single Roll/Spool

Making room for new arrivals.
All first quality.
Patterns will vary from those shown.

Great Value! **75¢** per sq. yd.

Carpet

- Tough, high performance carpet
- Naturally stain resistant
- 14 great colors

*Timberlake 20' installation and underpad extra.

Shop At Home For Carpet 1-800-299-9940

5261 Highway #7

294-7835

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE SPRAYING OF NOXIOUS WEEDS



The Township of Uxbridge will be spraying roadside ditches and boulevards in the rural areas from August 7, 1997 to August 29, 1997 during daylight hours, Monday to Friday only.

The purpose of spraying is to kill the noxious weed Colt's Foot. The herbicide that is to be used is called Transline, registration number is 24085. Spraying will take place in rural ditches and boulevards only and be applied by a licensed applicator.

Spraying will only occur where Colt's Foot exists.

Anyone wishing further information can contact the undersigned between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 905-852-9181 or 905-649-1938.