

Voiles can wreak havoc during winter

As the month of December begins, we know that we must not delay any longer in preparing our gardens for winter.

Immediately hill up tender roses and newly planted buddleia (butterfly bush) and caryopteris. If you have been following my column for a while you'll know that I dislike evergreens bundled in burlap. If you have pyramidal conifers planted in vulner-

able locations (where snow may ruin their shape), please consider using plastic mesh instead.

One winter problem that we often forget to guard against is the foraging of mice or more correctly voles. A vole is like a small chunky mouse with short legs and tail and tiny ears partially hidden in the fur. Its colour ranges from brown through grey.

Voiles are active day and night all

year round and can have five litters of three to six young a year. They usually eat grasses and weeds but also enjoy insects and snails. In fall, they gather and store seeds, bulbs, tubers and rhizomes. (Perhaps squirrels are not the only guilty ones in the Battle of the Bulbs).

When other food sources are scarce, they eat the bark of fruit trees and ornamental plants. Just under the bark of a tree is the mechanism which conducts nutrients and water from the roots to the leaves so nibbling by voiles can cause severe damage. Girdling (removing the bark completely around the trunk) will cause certain death.

Voiles can be quite disastrous in orchards and nurseries. Rabbits also eat bark and clip off entire branches but their damage is usually higher up above the snow line while damage by voiles is closer to the base.

Other evidence of voiles is their pathways through long grass and their tunnels through heavily mulched areas.

If you suspect that voiles could be a problem, protect your trees with quarter-inch mesh hardware cloth, heavy plastic pop bottles cut lengthwise or manufactured tree guards. They should extend six inches into the soil and



Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

reach eight to 12 inches above the soil line.

If you leave these barriers in place all year check at regular intervals to make sure they're not restricting plant growth. Mouse traps positioned near runways and baited with oatmeal and peanut butter can help to reduce the numbers in your garden if you don't have the essential "garden cat."

Vole population naturally fluctuates so some years will see more damage than others.

Years with heavy snow are often the worst. They live well under the snow cover which protects them from their natural predators — owls, hawks, wolves, coyotes and cats.

How well I remember the winter when my tree peony was covered by five feet of snow from December to March. I was delighted that it was so well insulated.

Imagine my chagrin when the snow melted and I discovered that voiles had eaten off every stem at ground level.

The recent postal problems have stopped the flow of seed catalogues and garden magazines. Fortunately two of my favourites — Stokes and Thompson & Morgan — arrived before the disruption.

If you don't describe to Canadian Gardening magazine, pick up a copy from the newsstand.

This month's issue lists 200 seed and plant catalogues you can send for. Some are free, others are available for a nominal fee — a small price for essential winter reading.

Send your questions or comments to:

Let's Get Growing,
c/o Uxbridge Tribune
88 Brock Street West
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1R4



Antoinette Condello **Maria Mpardakis**
"We Have Moved"

SALOD
Artissima

*We Make Beauty
Our Middle Name*

**Come & Visit Our
New Unisex Salon**
NEW CLIENTS WELCOME

ALL CLIENTS RECEIVE 20% OFF
PRODUCTS & SERVICES
GIFT CERTIFICATES
AVAILABLE

WE SPECIALIZE IN COLOUR FOIL HIGHLIGHTS & UPDO'S

SALOD 5990 Sixteenth Ave., Suite 232
Artissima (905) 201-9417
(NW Corner Hwy. 48 & 16th Ave.)
Open Sundays until end of December

**Flyer Inserts For
Thursday, December 4, 1997**

THE BAY - SCRATCH & SAVE
BUSINESS DEPOT
SEARS - 2 DAY POWER SALE*
ZELLERS*
HOME AND LEISURE CENTRE*
PAPA KARL'S PIZZA*
PAST REFLECTION ANTIQUES*

**Flyer Inserts For
Friday December 5, 1997**

CANADAIN TIRE* *Selected areas only.

WE'RE FIRST IN DISTRIBUTION

We've delivered 46,983,008 flyers
door-to-door, so far this year.

For further information on how we can deliver
your flyers call:

Melissa or Ruth at (905) 640-2100

The Tribune
Stouffville

FURNACES & AIR CONDITIONERS **FIREPLACES**
INSTALLED BEFORE CHRISTMAS




FROM THE INSIDE GUYS ORDER NOW AND SAVE!




MAJESTIC Fireplaces

The Largest Variety of Fireplaces In Town




NAPOLEON FIREPLACES

Installed From \$1699.⁰⁰



Reg. \$325
now \$250

Model 49BF

**Authorized Dealer
CONSUMERS GAS**



38 TKB



**OPEN
SAT 9-5pm
Sun 12-5pm**

Call for Details!


905-201-8356

WOMEN IN MOTION
Health and Fitness Clubs

144 Main Street North, Markham

other locations
Meadowdale • Erin Mills • Markham • Ajax • Whitby • Bolton
Limited Time Offer

**Come and Visit our large showroom
with over 45 units on display**
2651 John St., Unit 4 Markham
(905) 475-0775 (416) 931-3740



**FREE
T-Shirt While
Supplies Last!**

**Taking Care of Fitness...
Everyday!**

At Women In Motion Health & Fitness we have everything you
need to take care of your health and fitness needs!

Pre-Registration Special
No payments 'til Jan '98
No long term commitments
Free Babysitting

905-201-8356

WOMEN IN MOTION
Health and Fitness Clubs

144 Main Street North, Markham

other locations
Meadowdale • Erin Mills • Markham • Ajax • Whitby • Bolton
Limited Time Offer

**ENDS
SOON!**

TOYS 'R' US
CORRECTION NOTICE

Due to the supplier's inability to ship product, the San Francisco Rush game for Sony Playstation shown in the December 3rd flyer will not be available until 1998.

Also, the Nintendo Game Boy advertised at \$49.98 is not available in all stores in all colours.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

JAKES
on Main

202 Main St. Unionville
(905) 470-6955

HAPPY HOUR
Mon. - Thurs. 4 to 6 p.m.
FREE Hors d'Ouvers

CIGAR NITE
Wed. Dec. 17
No Cover - BYO Cigar
or Buy Ours
FREE Hors d'Ouvers 8 p.m.