

Warm spring may signal drought to come

While most people are enjoying the unusually warm, dry spring, farmers and experienced gardeners are worried about the possibility of a major drought.

When your water source is a well, you learn to conserve this

most important resource. But when the source is a tap on the side of your house there is the tendency to overuse and to waste water.

The Region of Durham has launched a campaign to become a

water efficient community by teaching its residents how to cut down on water use in all areas of the home and garden. Displays have been set up at garden centres throughout the region featuring a fee book entitled Household Guide to Water Efficiency which outlines the principles of xeriscaping — gardening using a minimum of water.

A one-acre water efficient garden is being established in Whitby adjacent to the courthouse on Rossland Rd., just east of Hwy. 12.

The purpose of the garden is to show how a variety of garden styles can be maintained with limited water usage.

Water efficiency tips

The elements of planning a water efficient garden are:

- 1.) Group plants together according to their moisture requirements;
- 2.) Improve the soil by adding compost or organic amendments;
- 3.) Establish windbreaks to prevent drying by prevailing winds;
- 4.) Choose drought-tolerant plants — those with silver/grey, finely-cut, fuzzy,



Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

waxy or aromatic foliage.

5.) Correct planting technique — fill hold with water and allow to drain — spread potbound roots;

6.) Apply a mulch after planting to prevent evaporation of moisture from the soil — e.g. shredded bark, cocoa bean shells, straw;

7.) Water only once a week if needed — applying one to two inches of water.

(WATERING DAILY WITH A HAND HELD HOSE ONLY ENCOURAGES SHALLOW ROOTED PLANTS WHICH DEMAND CONSTANT WATERING!)

To learn more about Durham's water efficiency programs, call 1-800-372-1103.

Drought hardy plants

One of my favourite drought tolerant annuals is verbena — pictured on the poster to promote the water efficiency program.

Verbena hybrids are sold in packs in colours ranging from white to pink, red and blue. Each one forms a mound about eight inches by eight inches.


Trailing verbena is usually sold as a container plant — the Temari hybrids have larger fuzzy leaves while the Tapien hybrids have ferny foliage. When planted in a pot they need daily watering but when placed directly into the ground they are amazingly drought tolerant.

Verbena 'Imagination' sold in packs is one the most economical, water-saving plants available — use it as an edge or in the rock garden.

Verbena bonariensis is the tallest family member — reaching three-to-five feet and is a good food source for butterflies and hummingbirds.

Another group of plants that exhibit major drought tolerance are alpine — those plants used in rock gardens. I will be presenting a free seminar on this plant group on Saturday, May 23 at 10 a.m.

For directions to the seminar, please call 905-649-3532.



29th Annual Unionville Village Festival

June 6th & 7th


BEAUTIFUL BABY CONTEST
 Sat. June 6, 1998
 Old Unionville Train Station
 Station Lane, Unionville

Calling all babies. Ages 6 - 23 months.

First prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

6 - 13 months infant girls	6 - 13 months infant boys
14 - 23 months toddler girls	14 - 23 months toddler boys

Registration is limited to 15 children in each category
Unionville Residents Only



BABY CONTEST REGISTRATION FORM 1998

BABY'S LAST NAME _____

BABY'S FIRST NAME _____

BABY'S DATE OF BIRTH (day/month/year) _____ AGE _____ SEX _____

PARENT'S LAST NAME _____

PARENT'S FIRST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Please submit registration form To: Unionville Festival Baby Contest
185 Ramona Blvd., Markham, Ontario L3P 2K9
All registrations will be confirmed by telephone prior to the event.
No registration on the day of the event.
For further information call Kathryn (905) 294-1288.

Spring Has Sprung At Tree Valley!

Come in and see the large selection of Trees, Shrubs, unusual Topiaries and Bonsai's.

Large Selection of Hanging Baskets bursting with colour 10' \$9.95	Bedding Plants Same colour and type, no mixing <i>Stouffville only</i> \$9.99 Box \$10. Flat	Geraniums 4" pots Huge Selection of colour \$1.59	New Guinea Sunshine Impatiens Huge Selection \$1.59 4" Pot
Cotoneaster 2 Gallon Pot On Special Reg. \$17.00 \$11.00 SPECIAL	Fertilizer 21-7-7 50% Slow Release Weed & Feed 20kg Reg. \$27.00 \$20.00 SPECIAL	Cedar Mulch 3 Cubic Foot Bag Reg. \$7.95 On Sale \$5.95	Perennials 4" pots Super Sale Price \$1.79

Tree Valley Garden Centre Ltd.
Growers, Landscaping Supplies & Landscape Contractors

Stouffville 4431 Stouffville Side Road Tel: (905) 640-2020 (Just west of McCowan Rd.)	Richmond Hill Bayview & Elgin Mills Tel: (905) 884-4247 (southeast corner)
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 RICHMOND HILL 10815 Bathurst St., 905-770-9705 (Corner of Elgin Mills)
 ALLISTON 6 Mill St., 905-435-3055 (Behind Home Hardware)

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LOBSTER FEST

From Tuesday May 19 to Sunday May 24, The Corner House in Stouffville presents a feast of Lobster.



Fresh, East Coast Lobster

- ☆ Steamed with clarified Butter
- ☆ Broiled with our special Spicy Herb Butter
- ☆ Baked with either Thermidor, (Brandy & Mustard) Sauce or Bonne Femme (White Wine & Mushrooms)

6403 Main Street East, Stouffville. For reservations please call 640-8494

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