



GOPHERS GO HOME

One Sunday while having coffee I jumped to see what was making a mound in my garden and came eyeball to eyeball with a gopher. I planted a soda bottle at the outside edge of the garden leaving it above the ground one inch so the wind would make it whistle. Gophers and moles can't stand the vibrating sound so they stay away.

One bottle will take care of about 100 square feet of space.

(Ida Graves, Alvarado, Texas)

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Gardening Letters

by Doug Green

Its nice to see the snow out the window as I sit and write this article. Nice because its cleaner than the old brown grass but also because it will be acting as insulation for all our perennials and tender plants struggling to make it through the winter. If you have a chance, you might want to pile snow up over your perennial beds (throw it there when you shovel the walk). This extra snow cover over the perennials and roses will act as extra insulation if we get a thaw and sudden freeze. The extra snow will not melt as fast and might still work for you when the rest of the ground is bare.

In giving a talk the other day to a Horticultural society, I happened to mention the shrub *Kalmia latifolia*. None of those gardeners knew about this plant and I thought that I should let gardeners in North Leeds know about this great shrub. *Kalmia* or Mountain Laurel is a broadleaf evergreen plant, native to the Eastern coasts. It grows 7-15 feet tall but is a spectacular blooming shrub which compares easily to the *Rhododendron*. It can be planted with the *Rhodo's* as they too like the acid soil. Planted in full sun in milder regions or part shade in hot areas, it matures from a dense, rounded shrub into a gnarled specimen plant in its old age. It loves moist, acidic, well drained soil that is high in organic matter. Bloom colour in June ranges from white to pinks. Give this plant a try especially if you have cedar, pine or oak trees

the leaves will not be as noticeable and the flower colours will not be as bright. They are the only *Impatiens* that really like the sun. If you let them dry out, the top leaves will soon look as if a blowtorch was passed over them, getting all brown, dried out and crinkly. Hanging baskets are beautiful in the greenhouse, but if they are not watered in the garden or if the watering is inconsistent then they too will soon look 'blasted'. Spider mites refer to them as 'lettuce' so frequent sprayings with the hose and weekly applications of an insecticidal soap spray are definite recommendations.

As you read this, remember that spring is not long in coming and that the crocus bulbs will soon be up.

growing happily in your garden.

We have obtained some stock plants of *Hedera helix*, variety 'Baltica' for trial this next winter. For those of you who gave up on latin names, English Ivy is the name of this great plant. I'm told that this particular variety is the hardiest of the known varieties so we will be trying to get it to live here. I always wanted an ivy covered cottage.

For several years, we have grown New Guinea *Impatiens* for sale in our greenhouses. There have been some breeding improvements in these plants in the past few years and they bear watching as a garden plant. The trick is to get them into a fertile soil and then give them lots of water, usually

daily until they are well established. Long periods without rain will also increase the need to bring out the hose. If you can't provide lots of water, plant the *Impatiens* where it will get noon shade. If you grow these plants in shade however, be aware that the variegation on



Ministry of Natural Resources / Ministère des Richesses naturelles

PRIVATE LAND FORESTRY SERVICES

PLANTATION ESTABLISHMENT/WOODLOT MANAGEMENT



*30,000 Eastern White Pine



* 8,700 White Cedar



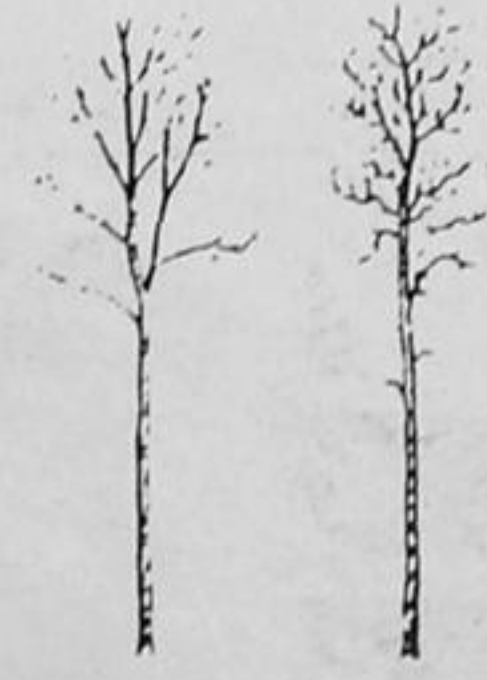
* 1,000 Other Softwoods



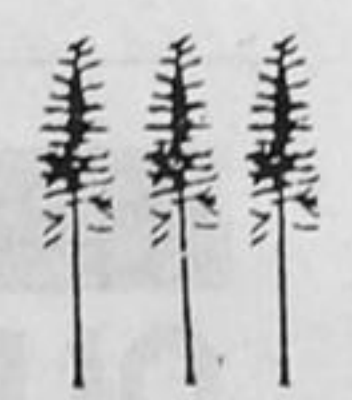
*23,000 Red Maple



*133,000 Sugar Maple



*11,000 Other Hardwoods



Plantations *19,000

Tree planting and woodlot management activities have been carried out within the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville for many years. One of the earliest records of Provincial Nursery stock to be planted in the counties dates back to 1910. Private and public planting efforts are continuing through a variety of opportunities afforded by provincial agencies.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Brockville, provides advice to individuals interested in planting trees on their land. A province wide program exists whereby the MNR may enter into an agreement with an owner to assist in plantation establishment. The minimum requirement for these services is a working land base of no less than 5 acres, excluding buildings or other structures.

Forest management advice for existing wooded areas is similarly available to each landowner. Whether your objectives are singular or diverse, our field staff are available to discuss with you alternative approaches to maintaining or improving the quality of your woodlot.

An added incentive is the Ontario Managed Forest Tax Rebate Program. Landowners who qualify may receive rebates of 100% of their municipal taxes on eligible land.

Further information on each of these programs may be obtained by contacting the private land forests staff at 342-8524 or Zenith 73,0000.

* Area of existing forest (in acres) for each group - Leeds & Grenville County

Jack Henry -Grenville Rep.
Ted DeVries -Leeds Rep.

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