

# Garden Inspiration

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New plants  
for 2013

Landscapes to LOVE



Welcome to

# Garden Inspiration

Spring 2013

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*Green for Life!*



Green for Life celebrates the joys of living, being outdoors, and connecting you to Ontario's landscape, nursery and horticulture industry professionals — the members of Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association. We take great joy in beauty and stewardship, and Green for Life is our commitment to help you enjoy your living space.

The first stop on your green journey needs to be **www.landscapeontario.com**. Here you will find a wealth of information about living Green for Life. Browse our library of how-to articles to assist you with plant selection, design tips and answers to your questions. View outstanding and inspirational photos of landscapes, water features, gardens,

lighting, and plants, all to inspire you in your own Green for Life dreams.

Connecting with Landscape Ontario's professional members as you search for a product or service is as easy as entering your postal code into our 'Contact a Company' page. Choose from landscape, maintenance, and snow management contractors; landscape designers; lawn care operators; garden centre owners; arborists; interior landscapers; and irrigation and lighting contractors — the sector groups of professionals that comprise Landscape Ontario. These experts can help you with your Green for Life dream.

Remember that inspiration is just a click away. Go to **www.landscapeontario.com** and begin living GREEN FOR LIFE!





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# Say ahhhhh!

## Imagine relaxing in your dream garden

Creating a great garden space at home starts with a vision. If you are looking for ideas to use in your own garden, take inspiration from our look book, brought to you by the talented members of Landscape Ontario. From large estates to pocket-sized city gardens, these lovely spaces offer examples of the latest garden styles and elements to add to your wish list.

These projects all received recognition in Landscape Ontario's Awards of Excellence program in 2013. Hundreds of idea-inspiring and award-winning project photos are available at [www.landscapeontario.com/menu/award-winners](http://www.landscapeontario.com/menu/award-winners). Be sure to visit the Professionals Gallery, as well, to search for photos of landscape ideas coded by feature.

# dream gardens



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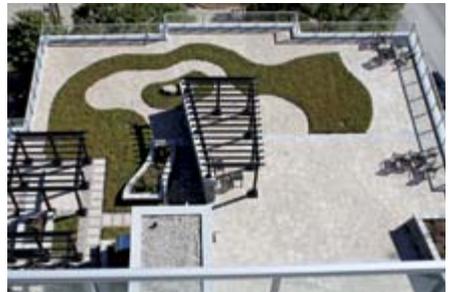
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# Ontario Garden Idols

BY RODGER TSCHANZ  
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

The following plants performed very well in the 2012 trial gardens at the University of Guelph, Landscape Ontario in Milton, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. These beautiful bloomers all caught the attention of visitors at the open houses. Many of them are new releases, some are older, but are being seen again with new eyes.

## Perennials

### *Echinacea*

The *Echinacea* cultivar '**Cheyenne Spirit**' (right) drew lots of attention from trial garden visitors last summer because of its first-year blooming habit and wide colour range: white, cream, yellow, neon orange and more. It is best used in a patch of six plants or more. Since each plant will be a different bloom colour with a different bloom period, the patch's season can last from mid-summer into the fall, and the colour blend itself can be quite attractive. Its mature garden height is approximately 24 in.

'**Mistral**' (left) is one of the shortest *Echinacea* selections I have ever seen. In the 2012 season it ranged in height from 8 to 14 inches, although it has potential of reaching 20 in. with plenty of water. The flower is a typical purple coneflower colour, and the bloom period runs from early July until October.



### Rate the plants yourself this summer!

For more on the best plant picks of 2012, and information on the trial garden open houses this summer, please visit [www.plant.uoguelph.ca/trialgarden](http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/trialgarden).

## Annuals

### *Angelonia*

'Serenita' is the latest offering of seed-propagated angelonia.

At a garden height of approximately 12 in., it is more compact than its sister series, 'Serena'.

### *Catharanthus*

'Cora Strawberry' and 'Cora Cascade Strawberry' are two new colours and forms of seed-propagated catharanthus, also known



as vinca or Madagascar periwinkle. This species typically likes hot and sunny growing conditions. 'Cora' has an upright growth habit while 'Cora Cascade' is semi-spreading and can be used effectively in both containers or as a ground cover. The flower colour is two-toned with a dark pink centre and pink perimeter.

### *Petunia*

Every year has seen substantial innovations in the world of petunia development. New colours and habits, increasing and the range of usage for the petunia, are motivation for change. Here is what you can expect for 2013.

'Debonair Black Cherry' is a new black multiflora petunia that can be propagated by seed. Suitable for container applications.

'Picobella Cascade' is a new series of trailing, small-flowered petunias that are seed propagated. Colours include pink glo, red, coral, lavender, white, purple and salmon. Suitable for baskets, containers and as a ground cover. The garden height is 8-10 in., with an 18 in. spread.

'Duvet' is a new series of five colours with a compact, mounding habit with large flowers (height 6-8 in. and a spread of 12-14 in.).



'Picasso in Pink', new this year, has a pink flower centre with a light green margin, making it a pinker and slightly less vigorous version of its predecessor, 'Pretty Much Picasso'.



## Vegetables

We sometimes have the opportunity to trial vegetables for small spaces, suitable for small urban yards. Here are a few interesting tomato candidates for 2013.

### *Lycopersicum*



'Power Pops' is a cherry-type tomato that matured earliest and produced the greatest yield in out trials. It has a sprawling growth habit making it suitable for containers and hanging baskets. We grew it as a "tomato ground cover" in the beds. The skins of the fruit seemed split easily when ripe; the yield was incredible and the flavour pleasant.



'Mighty Sweet' was, based on many informal taste tests, judged one of the best tasting miniature tomatoes in our trial. It had a sweet flavour and a meatier texture than other entries.



**G9 garden Landscape Horticultural Trades Association**

# Timeless

Old meets new in this year's  
Green for Life garden  
at Canada Blooms

In 2013, Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To honour the occasion, members collaborated on a garden reflecting the changes in garden use and design over the years. As you walk the garden path, enjoy the transition from natural, utilitarian function to a more contemporary, viewing garden.

Timeless natural elements form the basis of both halves of the garden, creating two very different atmospheres. Rustic barn timbers are juxtaposed with modern gabion baskets. Sustainability in this garden is first and foremost, with reclaimed stone and wood finding use in both the traditional and the modern landscape. A modern take on the old practice of grow-

ing green roofs helps filter storm water runoff as well as air pollutants, reduces heating and cooling costs and extends the lifespan of the roof.

A stalwart drystone lighthouse stands as a beacon over the landscape, representing the knowledge, talents and professionalism of trustworthy Landscape Ontario members. When working with professional members of Landscape Ontario, you can have confidence they will create a safe harbour in your home.

As you exit the garden, look back through the window to see where you started. Styles have changed, design lines have changed, but the purpose of the garden remains the same.

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timeless *what's old is new again...*

# Introducing: new plants for 2013

Our exclusive coverage is your first look at new cultivars coming to Canadian garden centres this spring. Plant breeders are finding ingenious ways to improve offerings, and delight gardeners. Best bet to buy these new arrivals is a Landscape Ontario-member independent garden centre; find one near you at [www.landscapeontario.com](http://www.landscapeontario.com).



## new perennials

Noted for interesting textures and year-after-year reliability, perennials are great landscape investments.

### 1) Wild Swan™ anemone

*Anemone* hybrid 'Macane 001'

This lovely anemone hybrid has been bred to be a large, vigorous bloomer, flowering continuously from mid June until mid November, much longer than Japanese anemone hybrids. Large pure-white faced flowers, a circle of crisp chartreuse yellow stamens, with rich bluish-violet banding on the reverse of the sepals. The flowers are held well above the foliage, having a nodding habit in the early morning and evening, showing off the attractive blue characteristic. In 2011, Anemone Wild Swan was awarded Chelsea Flower Show Plant of the Year.



### 2) Filigree miniature clematis

*Clematis* Filigree

A new ultra-compact miniature clematis from Raymond Evison. This selection stands only 30cm (12 in.) tall and bears abundant, large silvery blue to pale lilac flowers. Blooms profusely from early to mid summer and sporadically through late summer. Perfect for containers or hanging baskets as a trailing plant. Will climb to 60 cm (24 in.) if supported. Hardy to zone 4.

## new perennials

### 3) 'Mercury Rising' tickseed

*Coreopsis* 'Mercury Rising'

A very long blooming perennial for sunny areas. The exceptionally large velvety-wine daisy-like flowers have a contrasting orange button centre, appearing from mid-summer to mid-autumn. These are excellent towards the middle of a sunny flower border, and in containers. Hardy to zone 5 (4 with reliable snow cover). Grows 40-45 cm (15-18 in.) tall and 60-90 cm (24-36 in.) wide.

### 4) 'Rosebud' pinks

*Dianthus* 'Rosebud'

A new pinks that will grab your attention with its tiny fragrant crimson-rosebud flowers. Repeat blooming, free flowering and long blooming, great for containers, borders and mass plantings. A cute plant reaching only 15 cm (6 in) tall and wide. Hardy to zone 5. Blue-tinged foliage with dense mounding habit, adds nice colour and texture even when not in flower. Drought tolerant, heat tolerant and beautifully fragrant.

### 5) 'Valentine' old-fashioned bleeding heart

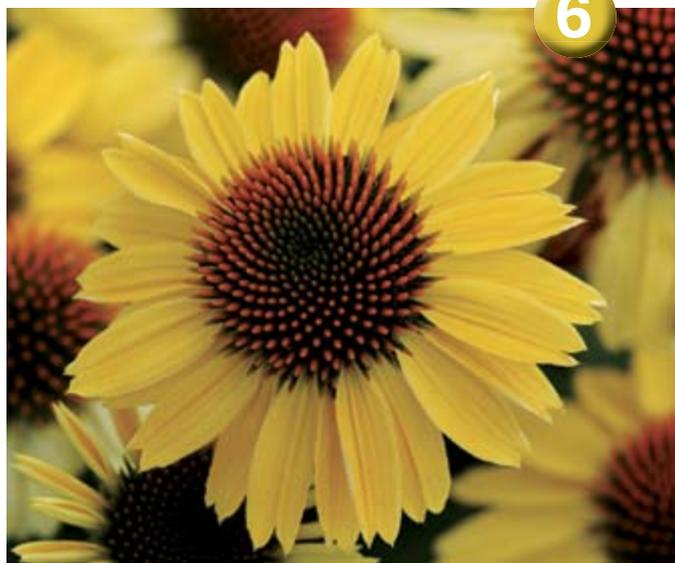
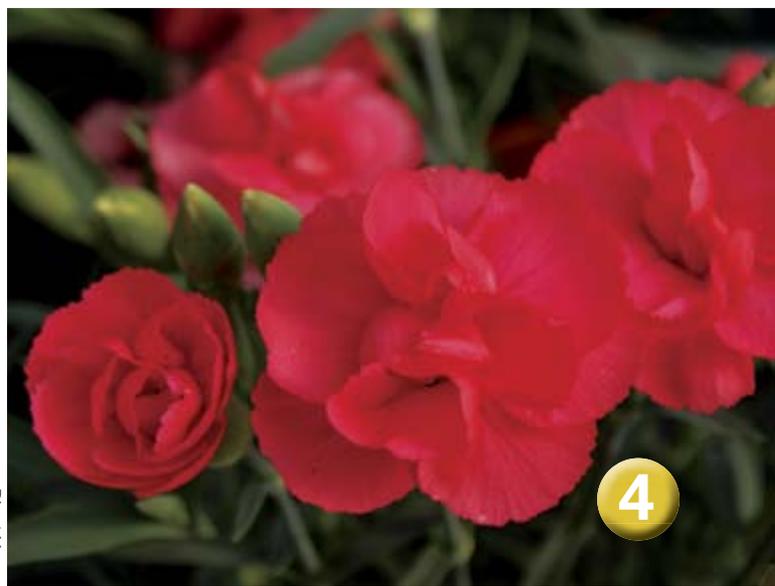
*Dicentra spectabilis* 'Valentine' PPAF

Valentine brings an updated colour palette to an old favourite — a red bleeding heart. Much like the species, this cultivar also grows quickly to form a robust clump of foliage topped with arching flower stems in late spring. However, the stems on Valentine are deeper red and the large, puffy heart-shaped flowers are bright red with a white tip. Like the species, this plant likes a shady spot and goes dormant in mid to late summer. Grows 75 cm (30 in.) tall and wide. Hardy to zone 4.

### 6) 'Sombrero Sandy Yellow' coneflower

*Echinacea* 'Sombrero Sandy Yellow'

This is a new series of coneflowers bred for their sturdy, well-branched habit and high bud count. This selection produces very large bright yellow flowers with a brown cone. Plants are compact, growing to 60cm (24 in.). Blooms begin mid-summer and can flower 'til fall with regular dead-heading. Attracts butterflies and drought tolerant once established. Hardy to zone 4.



Plant Haven

## new perennials



### 7) 'Lilafee' barrenwort

*Epimedium grandiflorum* 'Lilafee'

Also sold as 'Lilac Fairy', this is one of the larger *Epimediums* available, valued for its amethyst-purple flowers which are held well above the foliage. Since many *Epimediums* tend to hide their flowers within or below their foliage, this is a significant improvement. The new leaves emerge with a strong bronzy red tinge, turn green for the summer months, and then back to bronzy red in fall. *Epimedium* can be used as a ground cover in shady locations. It tolerates dry, rocky, shallow soils, dense shade, and is deer and rabbit resistant. Grows 20 cm (8 in.) tall and 30 cm (12 in.) wide. Hardy to at least zone 4.

### 8) Gaillardia 'Sun Flare' blanket flower

*Gaillardia* 'Sun Flare'

A great selection that tolerates heat and drought, with stunning long-blooming bi-coloured trumpet-shaped florets. Growing only 15-25 cm (6-10 in.) tall and 50 cm (20 in.) wide. Plant at the front of your sunny borders and in containers. Enjoy masses of 5 cm (2 in.) flowers from the first breath of summer well into fall.



### 9) 'Tuscan Sun' false sunflower

*Heliopsis* 'Tuscan Sun' PP18763

If you are looking for dwarf plants this year, try the smallest *Heliopsis* in cultivation. 'Tuscan Sun' is a short, compact selection that is perfect for both containers and borders. Daisy-like flowers with yellow rays with orange-gold centres bloom throughout summer. 'Tuscan Sun' stays neat, and deadheading will keep it blooming for most of the season. Outstanding heat and drought tolerant. Grows 50 cm (20 in.) wide and 30 cm (12 in.) tall. Hardy to zone 3.

### 10) 'Early Snow' daylily

*Hemerocallis* 'Early Snow'

Representing an incredible advancement in near-white daylilies, the blossoms of 'Early Snow' are "supremely beautiful and flawless" in the opinion of daylily expert Arthur Kroll. Gigantic 18 cm (7 in.) flowers of incredible substance are rich cream with a glowing yellow-green throat. The ruffled petals open wide and flat, making the flowers appear even larger.



Terra Nova Nurseries

Plant Haven

## new perennials

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### 11) 'Apple Crisp' coral bells

*Heuchera* 'Apple Crisp'

Hybrid coral bells are a terrific choice for adding foliage colour and texture to the front of a border or in a mixed container for shady areas. This selection is beautifully ruffled with strongly dissected, bright green leaves that are overlaid with silvery-white. Stems with small white flowers compliment the foliage. The Crisp series comes in a range of colours and features an excellent tight growth habit.



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### 12) 'Little Cuties' coral bells

*Heuchera* 'Little Cuties' series

There are seven heucheras in this new series, all featuring compact growth with a strong mounding habit and a long bloom time, lasting from May to October. All the plants perform well in full sun, part shade or full shade, and will add a punch of foliage colour and texture to the smallest space. These are the smallest *Heuchera* varieties available to date, and showcase an assortment of foliage colours ranging from caramel to rosy and tan and dark burgundy. Cultivars are 'Sugar Baby', 'Blondie', 'Coco', 'Sweet Tart', 'Ginger Snap', 'Frost' and 'Peppermint'.



### 13) 'Rainbow's End' hosta

*Hosta* 'Rainbow's End' PP17251

This unique hosta exhibits incredibly variegated, shiny foliage. The bright yellow leaves have dark green margins that jet into the centre which brightens to creamy white in summer. It forms a medium-sized mound of attractive foliage in the landscape. In late summer, showy red scapes carry the dark lavender, tubular flowers. Grows 28 cm (11 in.) tall and spreads 52 cm (21 in.) wide. Zone 3.

### 14) 'Silver Mist' lavender

*Lavandula* 'Silver Mist'

Fragrant from spring through fall. The leaves of 'Silver Mist' have a pleasant balsamic scent, while the flowers release lavender's iconic scent. The flowers are pure sky-blue and continue over an especially long season. Compact, well-branched, and marvelously fragrant in bloom and leaf, it's a must-have for the sunny garden and fine containers. Deer resistant, drought tolerant, heat tolerant and pest resistant. Grows 45-60 cm (18-24 in.) tall and wide. Hardy to zone 5.



13



14



1

# new roses

## 1) Campfire rose

*Rosa* 'CA29'

The latest addition to the Canadian Artist series of hardy roses, Campfire is named after a painting by renowned Tom Thomson, a contemporary of the Group of Seven. Campfire is a vibrant multi-coloured rose — the flower colour is quite variable in early summer, with yellow petals tipped with pink and becoming more pink as the season progresses. Some flowers are nearly all pink and some nearly all yellow. As the fall approaches, the flowers tend to be yellow in bud, quickly turning soft pink. This is a spreading plant, slightly wider than high, and is very resistant to black spot and mildew.



2

## 2) Francis Meilland™ hybrid tea rose

*Rosa* 'Meitroni'

Francis Meilland™ is the 2013 All-American Rose Selections winner. This tall hybrid tea rose with a very large bloom, good exhibition form and strong fragrance is a multiple award winner in Europe, as well. It is named to commemorate the centenary of Francis Meilland's birth, the breeder behind the historic Peace rose.

## 3) Popcorn Drift® groundcover rose

*Rosa* 'Novarospop'

Popcorn Drift® is the newest addition to the Drift groundcover series. Drift Roses have many of the same great characteristics as The Knock Out series, but are much smaller in habit. Like the other Drift roses: Apricot, Coral, Peach, Pink, Red and Sweet, Popcorn Drift is has excellent disease resistance and floriferousness. It is a repeat bloomer that is tough, disease resistant, winter hardy and virtually maintenance free.



3

## 4) 'Sheridan's Anniversary Blush' floribunda rose

*Rosa* 'Sheridan's Anniversary Blush'

This perfumed, pearly-blush beauty is a bedding rose *par excellence*, outstanding for ease of cultivation and healthy foliage. It can be grown with confidence and makes an ideal choice for anyone not experienced with roses. The perfume is fruity with citrus undertones, a delight when cut for the vase. Grows 80 cm (32 in.) tall and 60 cm (24 in.) tall. Released to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sheridan Nurseries in 2013.



4

# woody plants

## 1) Sugar Baby forsythia

*Forsythia Show Off*™ 'Sugar Baby'

Now even the smallest garden can have outstanding spring colour! This compact, dwarf plant delivers more flowers per inch to provide lots of vibrant spring colour in a small space. Bright yellow flowers arrive in early spring. Grows 45 cm-75 cm high and wide. Prefers full sun and well-drained soil.

## 2) 'Dreamweaver' columnar crabapple

*Malus* 'Dreamweaver'

This unique narrow crabapple fits well in today's smaller yards and highlights entrances very well. It has glossy purple foliage that eventually turns dark green with coppery undersides. In mid-spring the fragrant bright pink blossoms emerge along the branches followed by small purplish fruit lasting into the cooler seasons.

## 3) Mahogany Magic™ ninebark

*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Mahogany Magic'

A new ninebark with neat compact branching and dark crimson-red leaves. Its parent is native to Ontario. Mahogany Magic has pinkish-white, button-like flowers in mid-summer. It is very showy and extremely hardy. Prized as a landscape shrub and as a cut flower. Hardy to zone 3. Grows 3 m (9 ft.) tall and 2 m (6 ft.) wide. Released in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sheridan Nurseries in 2013.

## 4) 'Purple Be Dazzled'™ lilac

*Syringa pubescens* subspecies *Patula*

A new dwarf, compact re-blooming lilac with pale purple flower buds that open pale lavender to white with a delicate fragrance. Hardy to zone 4. Grows 100 cm (40 in.) tall and wide. This is a lovely spring flowering shrub for small spaces. Plant near a patio or window to take advantage of its fragrance. Purple Be Dazzled was released in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sheridan Nurseries in 2013.

1



2



3



4



# new annuals



1

## 1) Honeymoon Million Kisses® trailing begonia

*Begonia* Million Kisses® Honeymoon

A terrific addition to the trailing begonia family. Honeymoon adds much needed yellow colour to the shade garden. Earlier, larger blooms make a brilliant display. Trails 30 cm (24 in.).



2

## 2) Can-Can® calibrachoa

*Calibrachoa* Can-Can® series

Calibrachoa looks like a mini trailing petunia. They are mounding and trailing and love the sun. Also known as million bells because each plant is covered in flowers. The new Can-Can series offers one-of-a-kind colours in calibrachoa. An added benefit is the flowers stay open under the lowest light conditions. Available in Dark Purple, Hot Pink Star and Purple Star. Grows 25-38 cm (10-15 in) tall and wide.

## 2) Cayannetta chili pepper

*Capsicum annuum* 'Cayannetta'

An All-America Selections winner for 2012, meaning it was tested at gardens across North America and selected as one of the best. Cayannetta is a compact branching cayenne-type chili. It has a very neat, attractive habit and produces a large crop of bright red four-inch tapered fruits underneath the attractive leaf canopy. The fruits are mild in heat, reaching around 20,000 Shu (Scoville heat units). Cayannetta has tolerance to both very hot and cold seasons, making it a good all-around performer in any garden.



3

## 4) Señorita Blanca™ spider flower

*Cleome* hybrid Señorita Blanca™

Señorita Blanca features lovely white blooms with a pale lavender blush. A great landscape performer, this beauty has excellent heat and humidity tolerance and flowers all season from last frost to first frost. A sterile variety, so it doesn't set seed and stop flowering. Grows best in full sun and reaches 60-80 cm (24-28 in.) tall.

4





5

### 5) Patchwork impatiens series

*Impatiens walleriana* Patchwork series

No other impatiens cultivars have these one-of-a-kind patterns to brighten up the shady spots in your garden. Low-maintenance garden performers, Patchwork impatiens delivers non-stop colour all season. Colours include Pink Ice and the tri-colour Cosmic Burgundy and Cosmic Orange. Grows 25-40 cm (10-16 in.) tall and 30-35 cm (12-14 in.) wide.



6

### 6) Tumbler™ trailing impatiens series

*Impatiens walleriana* F1 Tumbler™ series

Tumbler™ impatiens expands the range of trailing shade-loving products for mixed container use. The trailing impatiens series has been bred specifically for use in hanging baskets and mixed patio containers. The vigorous plants fill pots easily and mature to an extraordinary trailing, overflowing habit for ultimate garden appeal. Series includes: Pink, Rose, Rose Star, Salmon, Scarlet, Violet, Violet Star, White. Grows 30 cm (12 in.) tall and 60-75 cm (24-30 in.) wide.



7

### 7) Luscious lantana series

*Lantana camara* Luscious series

The Luscious series offer vibrant colour as well as being butterfly and hummingbird magnets for the garden. New this year is Berry Blend, one of the largest in the Luscious series, it grows up to 90 cm (36 in.) tall. Pina Colada has masses of white flowers with yellow centres and will grow to 60 cm (24 in.) tall. Take a few moments weekly to snip spent blossoms off these plants, and you will be rewarded with continuous blooming all summer.



8

### 8) Blushing Princess™ and Frosty Knight™ alyssum

*Lobularia* Blushing Princess™ and Frosty Knight™

Blushing Princess is a lavender-toned version of Snow Princess®. The fragrant flowers open white and turn to a lavender silver in a day. Exposure to full sun increases the lavender flower colour. Frosty Knight™ grows half as quickly as the original Snow Princess alyssum, so is a great choice in combination with other medium-vigour plants — it won't take over your planters. Both new flowers do well in full sun. Because they are sterile and don't set seed, these alyssums will keep flowering all summer long.

# new annuals

## 9) Colourblaze® coleus series

*Solenostemon* Colourblaze®

Colourblaze coleus are known for vibrant colour and exceptional performance. New this year is Keystone Kopper™ with a deep, rich copper leaf and a strong upright growth habit, reaching 60 cm (24 in.). Tolerates varying light conditions. Marooned™ has rich, purple burgundy foliage, can grow to 90 cm (36 in.) tall and does well in sun or shade.

## 10) Under the Sea coleus series

*Solenostemon* Under the Sea

The unique Under the Sea coleus series was bred by students at the University of Saskatchewan. Each cultivar in the series has interesting and complex leaf shapes and colours. New additions this year are 'Electric Coral' with lobed leaves of chartreuse, red and green; 'Lion Fish' with deeply dissected purple leaves fringed with chartreuse; and 'King Crab' with huge crab-shaped leaves of red edged with chartreuse margins.

## 11) Lanai® Vintage Rose verbena

*Verbena* hybrid Lanai® Vintage Rose

Including verbenas in your patio containers or hanging baskets adds a flower shape and light leaf texture until any other. Lanai verbenas work well in mixed containers. The contrast of Vintage Rose's novel flower colour will draw the eye to your planters. The unusual flower pattern stays stable and is non-fading under high night temperatures.

## 12) Double Zahara Strawberry zinnia

*Zinnia* 'Pas867921'

Looking for no-fail plants to grow with children? If you have a sunny spot, you can't go wrong with Zahara zinnias. New double Strawberry has all the same great traits as the popular single Zahara series – outstanding disease tolerance, low water needs, superior all-season performance, with big, fully-double flowers. Strawberry was recognized by European growers as a Fleuroselect Novelty variety. Grows 40 cm (16 in.) tall and wide.

10



11



9



12



Landscape Ontario Ottawa Chapter at the  
**Ottawa Home & Garden Show** March 21-24, 2013

*Celebrate spring in the capital!*

Booth 2128 in Ottawa

landscapeontario.com



A 2,800 square foot garden at the Ottawa Home & Garden Show allows the citizens of Ottawa-Carleton to experience the magic of landscape gardens. All great gardens begin with a dream....and design. Permacon pavers were chosen to create the expansive interlock patio, allowing visitors to meander through the lovely gardens. Stone walls encase planters holding a variety of flowering shrubs and trees, and of course, it wouldn't be the Nation's Capital without thousands of tulips in bloom.

Some new trends in the industry are showcased, including a 10-ft. x 20-ft. vertical green wall adorned with pansies, as well as two rain walls with attached water features. This garden was designed and built by Garden Creations of Ottawa Ltd., as a member of Landscape Ontario.

In celebration of the long and deep roots of our industry in the Ottawa region, information on Landscape Ontario members will be available in our 200 square foot cedar pergola.



When you choose **Landscape Industry Certified** professionals, you know the person working for you is distinguished from their competition. A company with a certified staff member is invested in offering you: best practices, best performance, a dedication to safety, and superior knowledge.

**A distinction of excellence**

**Do you know who's working for you?**



Qualified • Confident • Recognized

# Turn on the landscape with turfgrass

**Your lawn is a living, breathing organism.**

**It is a photosynthesizing, oxygen-producing, carbon-sequestering miracle, teeming with beneficial microbes and insects.**

**Promoting its health is easier than you think!**

The benefits of grasses are immeasurable. Lawns give off precious oxygen and trap and hold climate-warming carbon. The dense, fibrous root system helps filter and clean runoff water before it goes into our storm sewers. Your lawn also helps cool the atmosphere when it gives off water vapour through photosynthesis. Lawns prevent wind and water erosion.

Grass can be a valuable and worthy, yet low maintenance, groundcover — soft enough for babies to crawl on, yet tough enough to bounce back after a soccer game.

With just a little bit of care, your family and environment can benefit from a healthy lawn.



## **Feeding**

Most lawns need regular fertilizing to stay thick and healthy. The professional lawn care members of Landscape Ontario will know the best type of fertilizer and application frequency for your specific lawn. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, your local independent garden centre will have a number of high quality options for slow release fertilizer. Do yourself a favour and measure the square footage of your lawn before shopping, so you know how much to buy.

## **Seeding**

The most effective way to combat weeds is to have a thick lawn. Applying quality seed, once in spring and again in early fall, will pay big dividends. Over the course of a season or two, you will see a marked difference in your lawn. Be sure to keep the seed out of your flower and shrub beds, and off patios or walkways. You can put the seed on with a spreader, or even by hand if you wish. Apply a light topdressing of good quality compost with the grass seed.



# The amazing grass race

## A Canada Blooms scavenger hunt

Find the five great grass stations promoting the benefits of turfgrass throughout Canada Blooms.

At each station, learn how turfgrass pays us back by cleaning our water and improving our air, and fill in the blanks below.

Bring your completed ballot to garden G9, Landscape Ontario's Green for Life garden, to receive your reward.

### 1. Pollution control

Turfgrass traps and removes dust and dirt from the air.

Did you know that 230 square meters of lawn absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and releases enough oxygen for a family of \_\_\_\_\_ to breathe.

### 2. Nature's air conditioner

Turfgrass has a tremendous cooling effect.

On a hot summer day, lawns will be \_\_\_\_\_ degrees cooler than asphalt and \_\_\_\_\_ degrees cooler than bare soil.

### 3. Proven health benefits

Turfgrass enhances our mental and physical health.

Research proves people recover faster in a hospital when given a \_\_\_\_\_, rather than seeing only the walls of adjoining buildings.

### 4. A natural filter

Turfgrass is a natural filter.

Runoff water in urban areas carries many pollutants. Water can be purified by passing through the \_\_\_\_\_ of turfgrass.

### 5. Our lives

Turfgrass sod creates immediate rewards.

A well maintained lawn and landscape can add as much as \_\_\_\_\_ per cent to the value of a home by enhancing its curb appeal.

### Mowing

An essential part of keeping a lawn healthy is regular mowing. Generally speaking, mow your lawn every five to seven days, more frequently in spring and fall when grass is growing vigorously. Keep the mower blades sharp, and set your mower to cut at eight cm (three inches) high. Keep regular; infrequent mowing will cause your lawn to thin out — a lot! When it is extremely hot, do not mow during mid-day.

### Watering

Lawns need an inch of water per week. Rainfall is always better than the tap, so if your lawn is hanging in there with Mother Nature's elixir, there is no need to pull out the sprinkler. It is ok to let your lawn go dormant in the summer — to a point! If your grass has gone three weeks or more without any appreciable moisture, it's time to give it a drink. You don't need to soak it, but leaving the sprinkler on for 15-20 minutes per spot will help it stay alive, and once cooler temperatures and fall rains return, it will bounce back.

### Protecting

If animals are digging up areas of your lawn this spring, chances are you have a grub problem. Nematodes are microscopic worm-like creatures, that will kill grubs when **correctly applied**. Research has shown us that the only time to apply nematodes to successfully control grubs is in the fall. A professional lawn care member of Landscape Ontario can apply these beneficial organisms to your lawn, or you can purchase them to do it yourself. If you buy from a garden centre, make sure the nematodes have been kept refrigerated.

Bookmark [www.landscapeontario.com](http://www.landscapeontario.com) to stay current on the best strategies for your lawn. Your family will thank you!



# Ask a master gardener

Homeowners with gardening questions can get advice at [www.landscapeontario.com](http://www.landscapeontario.com). Post your gardening question to the Ask An Expert page under the Extras menu, and it will be answered by the Master Gardeners of Ontario. We've featured two recent gardening questions posted at [www.landscapeontario.com](http://www.landscapeontario.com).

**Q** How soon can I plant tomato seeds indoors, and how many hours of light do they need?

**A** There is nothing better than picking a ripe tomato from your own garden. If you are growing tomatoes from seed, you should start at least six to eight weeks before your last frost date. By that time the soil will be warmed up enough to plant the seedlings outdoors and get them off to a good start. Sow seeds in moist soil that is labeled for seedlings. Follow the instructions on the seed pack for sowing depth.

If possible, give the container bottom heat to start germination, and place a plastic cover over top of the seeded container. Remove the cover and bottom heat at the first sign of the leaves pushing through the soil and move under grow lights, or to a bright window. If possible, keep the air temperature cool as the plants will grow too quickly and become spindly. As the plants become larger and have more leaves, you can replant them in larger containers. A couple of weeks before planting make sure you take the seedlings outside in a sheltered place to begin to harden them off (exposing them to the outside). Keep out of the wind and harsh hot sun.



**Q** Can you recommend a small tree (3 m or 10 ft. tall) that can withstand wind for an east-facing property?

**A** The specified maximum height means you are really looking for a shrub. The suggestions below depend on what is available at your local



Landscape Ontario member garden centre. The plants listed are all deciduous choices, meaning they lose their leaves in autumn.

**Serviceberry** Some serviceberries will grow taller than you want, but there are cultivars that are only about 3-3.5 m tall. They bloom early in the spring, have edible berries (much loved by birds) in early July, and bright red fall colour. They are very hardy.

**Elder** About 3 m tall and wide. It has fragrant and showy white blossoms in June and dark purple berries late in the summer, good for making wine and jam if you get to them before the birds. A cultivar called 'Aurea' has yellow overtones in the foliage, and Black Lace elderberry (pictured) has lovely pink blossoms and attractive burgundy foliage.



Proven Winners

And, here are two hardy small trees:

**Amur maple** Also called Flame maple. Amur maple grows 6-7 m tall, but can be pruned each year to keep it shorter. Wonderful red fall colour.

**Schubert choke cherry** About 5.5 m tall with white flowers that ripen to red berries. New leaves are deep purple and turn green as they mature. Nice, red fall colour.

# Building greener communities

HORTICULTURAL TRADES ASSOCIATION  
**landscapeontario.com**  
*Green for Life!*

Members of Landscape Ontario's nine chapters organize inspiring volunteer projects to improve their communities



The grounds of Parkwood Estates, a Canadian national treasure, receive tender loving care from **Durham Chapter** members.



A beautiful and quiet garden now graces the Hospice of Windsor, thanks to **Windsor Chapter** members.



**Upper Canada Chapter** members built a sensory garden for clients at Community Living Quinte West.



St. James Park, site of a dramatic makeover in December, 2011, gets a spring clean-up and fertilization courtesy of **Toronto Chapter** members.



**London Chapter** members are involved in both leadership and labour, planting trees along the Veterans Memorial Parkway.



Beechwood Cemetery, resting place for veterans, gets a respectful spruce-up every fall from appreciative **Ottawa Chapter** members.



**Waterloo Chapter** completes an ambitious school greening project at St. James High School in Guelph.



Landscaping helps fight cancer; the **Georgian Lakelands Chapter** participates in the Build for Gilda's project, supporting Gilda's House.



**Golden Horseshoe Chapter** members built a wheelchair access ramp for a community member suffering from a deteriorating neurological condition.

# landscape ontario.com



Green for Life!

## Easy steps to your Dream garden

**1** Begin your journey: Visit [www.landscapeontario.com](http://www.landscapeontario.com) and click on **Contact a company**



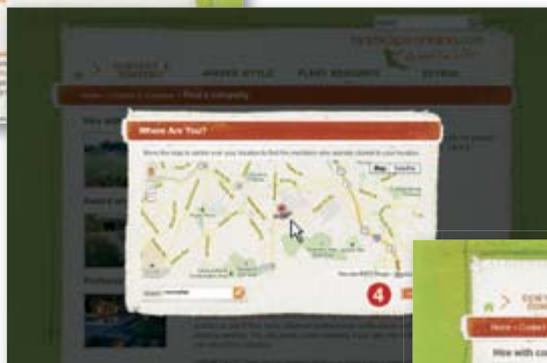
**2** Choose **Find a company** from the pull-down menu



**3** Select a green industry specialty to find experts: contractors, garden centres, designers and more ...



**4** Enter your city, town, or postal code in the dialog box in the bottom left corner, and click **OK**.



## Get started!

Browse company profiles and contact information for expert members of Landscape Ontario; ready to suggest solutions for you!

