



Spring 2016



Compliments of

Unique Garden Centre

From the Ground Up ↑

Limited garden space? Grow vegetables in pots!

There are lots of small vegetable cultivars that are suitable for planting in pots. Look for dwarf varieties. Often words like compact, bush, baby, midget, dwarf or tiny will be in the name. You could seed directly into the pots, but you will reap a harvest sooner with seedlings from the garden centre. Good potting soil, consistent moisture and fertilizer are key to a successful container garden harvest. It is also necessary to choose a container large enough to accommodate the plants as they grow. Drainage holes in the bottom are also important. You might do successive plantings to have an earlier and later crop.

Beans: Put 3 – 4 plants in a 18-inch diameter pot. Bush beans are easiest but you can grow pole types if you provide a trellis.

Beets: Any variety will grow well in a container, but the pot should be at least 12" deep. You can probably have about 6 beets per 12" diameter pot or more if you are growing them for greens or will pick as baby beets

Carrots: If you grow short varieties of carrots you can use a pot as shallow as 8" and get a bumper crop with diligent watering. Longer varieties will need deeper pots. As carrots seeds are very quite small it is easiest to sprinkle seeds on top of the soil, cover lightly, and thin them out as seedlings. 20 or so carrots should fit in a 14" diameter pot.

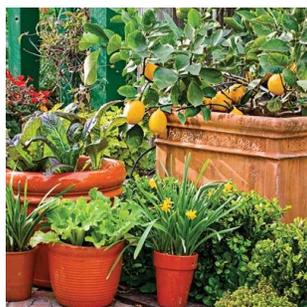
Cucumbers: Cucumbers are another winner in pots. Like beans, bush varieties will be easiest but a climbing support will also allow you to grow larger varieties.

Eggplants: Purple foliage makes this a very ornamental vegetable to grow in pots. One plant will fit in a 18" diameter pot and it would benefit from some support.

Lettuce and salad greens: Sprinkle some seeds in a pot and keep the soil moist. It won't be long until you have salad.

Watermelons: Try a dwarf watermelon like 'Bush Sugar Baby' in a minimum 20" diameter pot. Let the vines sprawl over the edges and support the fruit if necessary. Plenty of water and fertilizer will be needed.

Peas: Six pea plants should fit in a 12" pot. A smaller variety like 'Green Arrow' would be good or look for smaller varieties of sugar snap peas or snow peas. Larger varieties will need a trellis.



Peppers: Not only are they easy to grow in a pot, many varieties are quite ornamental. An 18" diameter pot will hold 1-2 plants. As with most containers, consistent water and fertilizer are important.

Radishes: Quick and easy in any kind of container. Spread some seeds on the top of the soil, water regularly and in just a few weeks, you will have a harvest.



Tomatoes: Many varieties of tomatoes perform well in containers. Use a tomato cage for taller plants and a minimum 18" diameter pot. There are also many dwarf varieties available.

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seed or sod

Most lawn mixtures in Canada have a high percentage of Kentucky bluegrass. It provides the traditional lush green lawns we love to play on or use as a foil for mixed shrub/flower beds. It is, however, high maintenance, requiring frequent watering, mowing and fertilizing.

A more modern approach to lawns is using seed mixes that contain little bluegrass seed but are blends of different fescues with turf-type perennial ryegrass mixed in. The ryegrass acts as a filler until the fescues are established. This type of lawn requires less maintenance than a traditional bluegrass lawn.

Whether using Kentucky bluegrass or fescue, there are several reasons these cool season grasses are better seeded in the fall than in the spring.

 Some of the most serious lawn weeds (quackgrass, foxtail) emerge in the spring. Since they are warm season weeds, they will compete and often crowd out young, tender cool-season grasses during the heat of summer.

 A lawn often gets more use during the summer, leading to increased compaction and traffic stress.

 The most stressful time of year for cool-season grasses is summer, not winter. Poorly established lawns may die out during the summer due to heat and drought stress.

If an area needs to be established in the spring, sodding is much more likely to be successful than seeding. Sodding provides stronger, more mature plants that are better able to withstand stress and prevent weed invasion.

Gardening and laughing are two of the best things in life you can do to promote good health and a sense of well being.



Parkland Pillar Birch



So you would like to screen off the neighbour's house but you have a tight 2-3m space. Here is a selection that might do the trick.

Betula platyphylla 'Jefpark' a.k.a Parkland Pillar Birch has an expected mature height of 23-26 feet with a tight, dense canopy 6-8 feet wide. It has deep green, serrated, pointy leaves that turn golden in the fall. In addition, it has showy white bark throughout the year. Columnar in shape, hardy to zone 3, drought tolerant once established and adaptable to alkaline soils, it is an excellent choice for the prairie urban landscape.



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***We offer both residential and commercial landscaping design services**

The best garden is one that you create to please yourself. A successful garden always starts with a good plan. Whether it is a brand new yard or an established one that needs some revitalization, hiring a landscape designer can help you maximize your yard's full potential. At Unique Landscape Design Service, our designer will take into account your needs and preferences and explore different options to best incorporate all elements of your yard. Privacy, pets, children, and hardscape features such as decks, patios or ponds are common considerations. An accurate planting plan ensures that the right plants are chosen for the available space and existing conditions. The right choices mean having plants that will not just grow where they live—they will thrive. A clear design is easy to interpret for installation by the do-it-yourself-er or a contractor. Having a plan means being able to budget money and time into getting the work done, either all at once or in stages. For more information on our design consultation, contact uniquelandscapes@sasktel.net or inquire at Unique Garden Centre.

Hot diggity Dogwoods!

Dependable and dazzling, the dogwood family of shrubs provide beauty and reliability year around. From colourful bark in the winter to spring flowers to flashy fall foliage, these shrubs have it all.

Here on the prairies, look for dogwoods in the *Cornus alba* group. Their colorful winter bark makes them a great choice to add vibrancy to our otherwise very monochromatic winter landscape. Most varieties have bright red stems although there are a few with yellow bark. Young canes show the best colour so annual pruning of older stems to the ground in the fall or cutting established plants an 8" height from the ground each spring is recommended.

Foliage is green, gold or green and white variegated and often has good fall colour. Ornamental white or blue-white berries provide food for songbirds as well. Dogwoods perform best in full to part sun, but will tolerate full shade, especially the variegated choices.

Some of our favourites are:



Ivory Halo Dogwood / *Cornus alba* 'Bailhalo': Variegated foliage; red stems; height and spread of 4-5.'



Red Osier Dogwood / *Cornus sericea* : Attractive red fall foliage with a height and spread of 6-10.'



Siberian Pearls Dogwood / *Cornus alba* 'Siberian Pearls': Deep green foliage; masses of white berries; purple fall colour; height and spread of 5-6.'



Pucker Up Dogwood / *Cornus sericea* 'Neil Z': Glossy green puckered foliage; bright red stems; height and spread of 3-4.'



Bud's Yellowtwig Dogwood / *Cornus sericea* 'Bud's Yellow': Green foliage; bright yellow stems; height and spread of 5-6'

Golden Variegated Dogwood / *Cornus alba* 'Gouchalti': Green and yellow variegated leaves bright red stems; height and spread of 4-5.'



Prairie Fire Dogwood / *Cornus alba* 'Prairie Fire': Bright chartreuse foliage; red stems; height and spread of 5-6'

New to us this year! Strawberry Daiquiri Dogwood / *Cornus alba* 'Stdazam': Green summer foliage edged in white; reddish fall colour as shown at right; strawberry red stems that look great against winter snow; height and spread of 5-6'.



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Unique Garden Centre

132 Broad St. N.



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Ask any gardening questions to the horticulturists on our staff!!

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www.uniquegardencentre.com

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