



MEDIA RELEASE

February 8, 2018

Gardening in an Increasingly Urban Canada

Canada Blooms offers inspiration for the small urban yard or balcony

TORONTO, Ont. — Canada is growing increasingly urban, but that doesn't mean we have to sacrifice our gardens.

Increasing housing density in Canadian cities means there is less outdoor space to call our own. Suburban neighbourhoods have increasingly tight frontage. More townhouses means smaller yards. Towering condominiums means more balconies and less personal greenspace. But with a little creativity, imagination, innovation and ingenuity, Canadians are making these small spaces work for their green thumbs.

"Smart use of containers and maximizing the space available can make any space around your home into a garden," says Denis Flanagan from Landscape Ontario. "They are just as versatile as a bigger backyard garden, whether you are planting flowers to add a splash of colour and some alluring aromas around your home or growing some delicious, fresh herbs, fruits and vegetables that will get you through the summer."

Because they are portable, planter boxes and containers have a versatility that traditional gardens do not. They can be used to enhance the curb appeal of your home, to freshen up the look of your back deck or patio or bring some greenery into apartment life. They can even come indoors during the winter to keep your garden growing all year long.

Mixing planters with terrestrial gardening will give your compact space some flexibility while allowing you to incorporate some hardscaping elements as well. But when selecting the pieces that will make up your garden, award-winning professional landscape designer Melanie Rekola cautions you to choose wisely.

"A common mistake made by many is choosing everything in small scale for a small backyard, but this technique actually makes a small yard appear smaller," says Rekola, owner and principal designer of Melanie Rekola Landscape Design. "I call this the Mouse-House effect. Instead, I use a range of sizes in plant materials and furnishings and often add a few large statement plants. Keeping the plant list small and using repetition helps to keep a small garden serene."

When it comes to building your own small space garden, Rekola advises using versatile features that can perform double duty, such as a retaining wall that is also a bench, or a barbecue built into a seating bar where people can eat. Bare fence can make your yard look like a play pen, so find elements that will disguise the raw wood or chain link. Perhaps most important is creating a focal point to make the space seem larger.



Co-located with the National Home Show, Canada Blooms takes place March 9th to 18th, 2018, at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto. For more information or for tickets, please visit canadablooms.com. Follow Canada Blooms on Twitter @CanadaBlooms and Like it on Facebook.

About Canada Blooms

Canada Blooms is an annual world-class festival that connects people to the joys and benefits of nature through experiences with gardens and flowers by promoting, educating, inspiring and celebrating all aspects of horticulture. A not-for-profit organization that gives back to the community throughout the year by funding community garden projects around Ontario, Canada Blooms is also dedicated to providing the community with horticulture expertise, education and resources on an ongoing basis.

Now in its 22nd year, Canada Blooms was founded by Landscape Ontario and The Garden Club of Toronto. Each year it is supported by a committed group of partners, sponsors and volunteers. Canada Blooms has been named One of Ontario's Top 100 Events by Festivals and Events Ontario and One of North America's Top 100 Events by the American Bus Association.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Kalvin Reid
Media Relations Officer
Email: kreid@enterprisecanada.com
Mobile: 289.241.7936
Office: 905.346.1233