



MEDIA RELEASE

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Light Up Your Garden

Dramatic effects can be had with a few well-placed bulbs

TORONTO, Ont. — When filming a movie, lighting is key.

It is only suitable, with the theme of Let's Go to the Movies at Canada Blooms 2018, that dramatic lighting is among the leading trends in landscaping as we head into the warmer seasons.

"Adding lighting to your garden can have a transformative effect," says Denis Flanagan, a gardening expert with Landscape Ontario. "It not only allows you to enjoy the beauty of the garden after the sun goes down, but it casts unique shadows and creates silhouettes that bring a new dynamic to the garden. Lighting can be the toughest thing to show."

One of the challenges with lighting is it is easiest to set up the lights in the daylight, but you won't know what it looks like until dark. At Canada Blooms, which uses dramatic lighting itself to showcase the feature gardens, it is easy to see how to best set up lighting in your garden, and what the affect will be.

There are several options for illuminating your garden. Setting up spotlights in strategic points can cast silhouettes of your plants and garden statues on nearby walls. String lights can be woven through your foliage. A recent trend is perching a spotlight in a tree and lighting down on to your garden. Many professional landscapers have special clamps that not only hold the light, but will also grow right along with your tree.

It is also important to have safety lighting in your yard, either to mark a pathway through the garden or on your steps to make sure no one trips and falls.

But there is more than lighting that is trending at Canada Blooms this year.

- **Purple** is the horticultural colour of the year, and purple flowers and plants are very prominent throughout the gardens, Floral Alley and Toronto Flower Show at Canada Blooms.
- An increasingly urban society has fostered an interest in **small space gardening for vegetables**. Everywhere you turn are kits, designs and plants for growing fruits and vegetables in small spaces, ideal for town homes, balconies, small yards or even indoors.
- With an eye on the environment and sustainable gardening practices, Landscape Ontario has put together a **Fusion Garden**, which makes efficient use of water for a lush and tranquil space.

"The whole idea behind fusion gardening is to not have to water it," says Canada's gardening guru Mark Cullen. "It uses innovative ways to capture and use the rainwater that falls on your property, so you never have to get out the hose and sprinkler."



Co-located with the National Home Show, Canada Blooms is currently taking place at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto until March 18th, 2018. For more information or for tickets, please visit canadablooms.com. Follow Canada Blooms on Twitter [@CanadaBlooms](https://twitter.com/CanadaBlooms) and Like it on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CanadaBlooms).

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.

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