



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Canada Blooms Names Derrick Hawley Head of Horticulture**

*Brings 25 years of experience in horticulture and turf management*

**TORONTO, Ont.** — There is a tall task laying in front of you when your business card says the gardens at Canada's largest celebration of gardening and landscaping are under your purview.

But Derrick Hawley is up to the challenge after being named the Head of Horticulture for Canada Blooms. A professional agronomist with extensive experience tending the immaculate fairways and greens in the golf sector, Derrick was most recently a turf management and arboriculture instructor at both Durham College and Humber College.

"I am honoured and excited to help showcase the best of what Canada Blooms has to offer," says Derrick. "It is a world class festival showcasing the absolute best in garden design and landscaping. It will be a welcome challenge to help bring it all together."

Derrick has a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness and Environmental Studies from McGill University and a Masters of Science in Agronomy from Iowa State University. Prior to teaching, Derrick spent 13 years as the Director of Agronomy and Horticulture Operations at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Stouffville, Ont., north of Toronto and, before that, eight years as the assistant superintendent and head horticulturalist at Royal Montreal Golf Club.

With Canada Blooms, Derrick says his priorities are to identify industry challenges and opportunities while simultaneously seeking to provide top quality ornamental plant material.

The Head of Horticulture at Canada Blooms is responsible for the for the development of a plant material plan, as well as with the coordinating and assisting with the planning and installation of Feature Gardens — including sourcing and negotiating with vendors and plant suppliers to create a world-class flower and garden show.

"In Derrick we are adding a quarter century of professional turf management and horticulture experience gained in one of the most demanding sectors in the industry — golf courses," says Terry Caddo, General Manager of Canada Blooms. "That can only bode well for our show as Derrick guides the building of stunning feature gardens that delight and inspire our patrons."

Co-located with the National Home Show, Canada Blooms takes place March 8<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto. For more information or for tickets, please visit [canadablooms.com](http://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 entering its 23<sup>rd</sup> 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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