



MEDIA RELEASE
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Simple Steps to Make Your Garden Look Great

Some relatively easy tasks to get your garden started this spring

TORONTO, Ont. — The arrival of Canada Blooms is a sure sign that spring in Southern Ontario is just around the corner.

While we may be looking forward to sunnier and warmer days, it also means we are looking some days of labour in the garden to get it ready for the planting, growing and blooming season. The work done now will set the foundation for a good spring and summer, but it doesn't have to be back breaking work.

"A healthy garden does so much for your home, mind, body and spirit," says Mark Cullen, one of Canada's foremost gardening experts and a Canada Blooms board member emeritus. "it not only improves the curb appeal of your house, but it provides a tranquil escape hatch from our hectic lives."

It does take some effort and planning to get your garden in tip-top shape before you are ready to plant and enjoy the fruits of your labours, but Mark has some tips for making those chores a bit easier:

- **Leaf clear up:** Rake leave off your lawn and remove winter debris. Raking can be fun and it is a simple task that you can share with the kids, perhaps to earn some of their allowance.
- **Weeding:** Your first defense against weeds is to pull or hoe them out of your garden early in the spring, before they establish their roots. But in order to prevent them from taking over, lay down a five-centimetre layer of natural bark mulch. This will reduce weeding by up to 90% in the first year.
- **Mulching:** The Miracle of Mulch will also reduce watering by up to 70%.
- **Watering:** Watering your garden is important, but water conservation is being stressed now more than ever. When it comes to keeping your garden moist this spring, rain barrels and fusion gardening are great options. Using rain water is better for your garden as far as the plants are concerned — it is oxygen-charged and always warm.
- **Edging:** Keeping your lawn from growing into your garden is crucial to the health of your plants. Installing garden borders or using an edging machine can make the job a lot easier and save you time.

Co-located with the National Home Show, Canada Blooms takes place March 8th to 17th, 2019, 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](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 23rd 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.

About Mark's Choice

Mark's Choice is Mark and Ben Cullen's personal seal of approval on more than 200 gardening products available exclusively at Home Hardware stores across Canada.

Mark's Choice Ltd. is a horticultural communications and marketing company, with the brand being attached to dozens of products available at Home Hardware stores across Canada — including gardening tools, soil, seeds, gloves and other equipment useful in the garden. Before a product is approved as Mark's Choice, it must pass rigorous testing, ensuring it is made from high-quality materials, meets the needs of Canadian home gardeners, is tough enough to stand up to commercial use and will help Canadians create great looking lawns and gardens. Possibly Canada's best-known gardener, Mark's Choice President Mark Cullen is a third generation career gardener, and a "garden communicator" unlike any other. He is a best-selling author, with more than 20 books on gardening to his credit. Mr. Cullen actively maintains his website markcullen.com, where he has answered more than 10,000 questions from gardeners across the country.

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For more information, please contact:

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