



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 2019

### **Urban Gardening for the Modern World**

*Ways any family can integrate greenery into smaller living spaces*

**TORONTO, Ont.**— Townhouse complexes and condominiums are frequently popping up in major metropolitan cities, and as a result many Canadian families are opting towards balconies and urban backyards as places to plant their personal gardens.

Although some urban gardens may lack the acres and physical space indulged by a larger backyard, sometimes less can mean more. With a little creativity, imagination and strategic placing, Canadians can adapt compact quarters into create a green living space.

“Living in a smaller space does not mean you have to give up on gardening,” says Dennis Flanagan CLD, public relations manager of Landscape Ontario. “The key is maximizing both the indoor and outdoor space you have within the home and integrating items such as plant hangers and planter boxes.”

Because planter boxes are portable, mini gardens have tremendous versatility in comparison to more traditional gardens. They can be used to simply enhance the curb appeal to your home or to add some freshness and colour to your back deck or balcony. Planters can also be moved indoors during those chilly Canadian winters to keep your garden growing healthy all year round.

Raised garden beds are another cost-effective options that families can integrate into their outdoor living spaces, like [the Vegepod](#) which can be seen at Canada Blooms 2019.

“Planter boxes can also be helpful tools for teaching children the joys of gardening,” says Flanagan, “Encouraging kids to learn about planting fresh herbs and veggies and by diving in and getting their hands dirty is incredibly rewarding.”

Another added benefit to planter boxes and small space gardens is that they are an approachable and low maintenance item when it comes to general care. Less space means less surface area to mend, and at Canada Blooms 2019 there will be small space gardens presented by Oaks Landscape Products: 5 balcony and front yard gardens, and 4 backyard gardens with many aimed to showcase the simplicity and grand impact small-space gardens can provide.

“Many of our small gardens are aimed at simplicity, tranquility, and freeing up time from our busy days to transition into afterhours family time,” says Flanagan. “With over 10 displays this Canada Blooms, we feel like both large and small families can gain inspiration no matter how small the space they're working with is.”

Co-located with the National Home Show, Canada Blooms takes place March 9th to 18th, at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto.



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.

The National Home Show, presented by RE/MAX is also making it a family affair this year. The show has partnered with the Skilled Trades College of Canada to address the shortage of skilled workers in the industry, by encouraging attendees (youth and adults) to consider the trades as a career path. This will be done via an onsite activation, where the public will be able to get hands-on in a variety of trades, including brick laying, electrical and plumbing. Parents with little ones will be able to take advantage of FREE daycare and kids of all ages will be able to test their creativity at the colouring station provided by RE/MAX, and don't forget to join us Monday, March 11th for an Elmer's Glue DIY Slime Station!

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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.

#### **About Mark's Choice**

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](http://markcullen.com), where he has answered more than 10,000 questions from gardeners across the country.

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