

Prep Your Lawn For Summer



(NC) Healthy lawns provide kids and pets with a safe, soft place to rest or play. Did you know your lawn also plays a significant role in cooling the environment around your home? These are just some things to think about as you get back to the garden.

When caring for your green space, remember that just like all living things, plants need food.

Turf fed three to four times a year develops a deep root system that can resist heat, drought and wear. It also develops thick green top growth to naturally resist weeds, disease and insects.

Look for a fertilizer with higher nitrogen and potassium, the first and last numbers on the bag. These are the nutrients that help promote a stronger root

structure, disease resistance and hardness that will help your lawn during the dog days of summer.

Nutrients provide grass with the ability to withstand drought in hotter summer temperatures, and to survive the winter and bounce back in spring. You can find more helpful information about the right way to fertilize online at greenerworld.ca.

3 Tips For A Pollinator-Friendly Garden



(NC) With summer just around the corner, it's time to start planning your outdoor space. Whether you have a big backyard or a small garden on your condo balcony, make sure you plant with honey bees and other pollinators in mind.

1. Get a little help from honey bees. Plants reproduce when pollen is transferred from one flower to another, and pollinators are one of nature's best at this job. Nectar and pollen provide nutritious food sources for their hives, but while they travel from plant to plant, they also spread pollen. Due to their pollinating prowess, honey bees and other pollinators are responsible for one out of three bites of food we eat.

2. Choose the right flowers. No matter the size of your garden,

even the smallest patch of flowers can help feed honey bees and other pollinators in your community. Be sure to consider plants like the lance-leaved coreopsis, New England asters and many other plants native to Canada to help your garden flourish.

3. Take advantage of free seeds. Honey bee populations in Canada are at an all-time high, and it's important we keep them that way. We can all help honey bees and other pollinators find nutritious food. Sometimes it can be hard to find the right pollinator-friendly seeds, but you can take the guesswork and expense out of finding plants they'll love by signing up for a free Buzzing Gardens seed kits at www.beesmatter.ca.

Retirement Home Vs. Long-Term Care: What's The Difference?

(NC) Planning for your future or a loved one's can be stressful. There are many factors to consider, like budget, lifestyle and care needs. It's a smart idea to have a plan in place early on, so when the time comes the transition is easier.

In Ontario, you can choose from a variety of options. More than 58,000 people across Ontario are living in licensed retirement homes. Here is some information that can help you make the best decision.

Management. A licensed retirement home is a privately-owned business that gives



residents certain rights and privileges and is regulated by the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority. They are different than long-term care homes, which require residents to

meet admission criteria and are government run.

Assistance. People who live in retirement homes are generally more independent. residents may purchase any of the care services offered by the retirement home,

or arrange for external care providers, including private-pay or publicly funded. Whereas, in long-term care facilities residents have their clinical care needs assessed and met through the home.

Funding. Retirement homes do not receive government funding and residents pay the full cost of their accommodation and any care services they purchase from the home directly. They

can also arrange to have services provided through the Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN).

Eligibility. There are no specific criteria to be eligible to live in a retirement home and you may look into as many retirement homes as you wish. With a long-term care home, there may be assessment criteria to determine placement and a waitlist for entry.

Find more information at www.rhra.ca.

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