

REAPS READER



Have you helped the environment today?

~Organic Gardening~



As we move into the planting season, you may want to consider starting an organic garden if you don't already have one.

First of all, what is it? Organic gardening does not use man-made fertilizers or pesticides on plants. A gardener strives to work in harmony with nature (water supply, wildlife, people and insects) and reduce the need to continually replenish any resources the garden requires.

It all begins in the soil you grow your plants in. Regularly adding organic materials helps replenish nutrients that your garden consumes. Everyone has access to the raw ingredients of organic matter, as your decaying plants, grass clippings, fallen leaves and kitchen vegetable scraps are the building blocks of compost. Adding compost to your garden will organically keep it happy and healthy.



Another component includes choosing plants that are well-suited to the environment. Plants that are used to Prince George climate and conditions are able to grow better and require less attention. If a plant is not suited to this climate, it may need frequent boosts to its natural defenses to keep it healthy. For example, don't choose a plant that requires much sunshine when your yard is shaded. Stressed plants are more attractive to pest infestations.

The least invasive way to deal with pests is to set up barriers around your plants. Yellow sticky traps easily catch flying pests while foil or cardboard collars (from recycled toilet paper rolls) around the base of plants will prevent many types of cut worms and borers from getting at your plant leaves.

Important

- May 3 ~ International Migratory Bird Day
- May 4 ~ Greenery Day
- May 22 ~ World Biodiversity Day
- Third Friday in May ~ Bike to Work Day



May is compost awareness month!

Come for a Visit!

The REAPS garden is now open for you to come and give us a visit if you are in the neighbourhood! There is plenty of information on gardening, composting, vermicomposting and new recyclables.

Why not register your class for a free presentation and garden tour where you can spend the rest of the afternoon at Fort George Park? There are a variety of learning topics for classes including composting, recycling and vermicomposting and we also offer activities such as making a recycled craft or buggy bingo. For more information or to register for a presentation, send us an email or give us a call!



BIG

Plant

REAPS is having our annual plant sale on Saturday May 23 from 10 am - 2 pm. There will be assorted perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, trees and shrubs available. Fill up your garden just in time for planting season! If your garden is looking a little crowded, REAPS would be happy to accept any donations of pots and plants. We will gladly pick up any plants or dig them out as well!

