



Quinte
CONSERVATION

Natural GARDENING



Protecting the places you cherish

FLOWER GARDENS

- Use plants that are native to your area.
- Use a wide variety of plants, this helps to attract predators of pests.
- Use local natural materials to build and decorate your garden and create wildlife habitat.

LAWN CARE

- Leave the grass clippings on your lawn to return the nutrients to the soil naturally.
- Choose drought-resistant grasses to reduce watering.
- Raise your mower blade to three or four inches. Taller grass will assist in

choking out weeds.

- Consider replacing your lawn with naturalized areas, stone walkways, native grasses and decks.
- Use a reel mower.

VEGETABLE GARDENS

- Use companion planting methods. Research which grow best together.
- Rotate your crops from year to year to maintain healthy soils.
- Plant a variety of different vegetables.
- Plan your garden so that you can harvest and replant. This will maximize the amount of produce you grow and minimize your trips to the grocery store.



PEST CONTROL

- Guard plants with fences to keep larger pests like rabbits out of your garden.
- Remember that most insects are beneficial to your garden. Spiders, ladybugs, ground beetles and wasps will all eat insects that destroy plants.
- Learn how to make your own



environmentally friendly insecticides and traps for those pests that destroy plants.

- Set up bird houses and feeders close to your garden. The birds you attract will eat pests like slugs.

WEED CONTROL

- Be sure to mulch. You can use fabric mulches or organic mulches like leaves, wood chips or straw. Be sure your organic mulch is from local sources.
- Placing clear plastic over moistened soil for six weeks will burn off weeds.
- Hand pulling can be labour intensive but effective.
- Be persistent!

FERTILIZER

- Use organic fertilizers.
- Use only when necessary and do not over-apply.
- No fertilizer can make up for inadequate soil building practices. Be sure to use plenty of compost to add nutrients to your soils.

WATERING

- Use a rain barrel to harvest rainwater.
- Water your lawn and gardens early in the morning and in the evening to reduce evaporation.
- Don't over-water. Use a sprinkler on a timer or place a Frisbee on your lawn and when the Frisbee is filled with water, shut off your sprinkler.

COMPOST

- Use a composter to reduce indoor and outdoor waste.
- Use your compost on your gardens to build healthy soil.
- Using compost retains soil moisture and cuts down on weed growth.

