



# Leaflet

summer 2009 edition Volume 15/Issue 2



Garden Centre • Floral & Interior Décor Shoppe  
Landscaping • Lawn Care • Nursery

## Sustainable Gardening At Linton's Enchanted Gardens

By Mark B. Linton

At Linton's Enchanted Gardens, we educate our customers about sustainable gardening. According to Mark B. Linton, President, "at Linton's, we practice what we preach." A sustainable garden works in harmony with nature. We start with planting native plants and trees. This is one of the best ways to work with, rather than against, nature. We suggest growing plant species that are native to our area. In return, they will be healthier than exotic species.

Another suggestion Linton recommends is back yard composting. Composting is a method of returning organic waste back into a nutrient rich soil amendment. This compost improves the plant health by supplying nutrients to the soil. According to Mark, the firm has probably the area's largest compost pile located at their Nursery facility in Bristol. "We compost everything." It's great as a soil amendment and we use it not only in our growing operations at our Nursery, but in our landscape installations as well!"

Organic gardening is probably one of the fastest growing trends we are seeing. We offer the area's largest selection of organic fertilizers at our Garden Centre.

Mulching is another sustainable gardening tip from Linton. "Mulch protects the soil by helping it retain moisture. It's also great for suppressing weeds and insulating plants from extreme temperatures.

Another suggestion Mark recommends is "double digging". Double digging helps the soil hold more water, improves aeration and places organic material at a depth that enables plant roots to adequately extend. By adding your own compost and double digging, you are actually growing the soil.

A new trend with irrigation systems is the use of small spray emitters or drip irrigation. These new systems direct the water to the plant's roots and don't just spray over the entire area while wasting precious water. "At our plant nursery, we utilize a lot of drip irrigation as well as reclaim irrigation water at both our Nursery and Garden Centre locations.

## Enchanted Parties

Now for the very first time your child can have a birthday experience like never before! Linton's Enchanted Gardens is offering two very unique types of birthday parties.

Our Enchanted Petting Zoo Party is for groups of up to 12 children. Your child, along with his or her friends will receive one on one petting, grooming and feeding our petting zoo animals. Supervision will be by one of our trained petting zoo staff and they will teach the kids about the different animals along with their care. The cost is only \$75.00 per group and includes animal food and birthday balloons.

Our Webkinz Party is for both boys and girls. The Birthday Child and their guests will receive their choice of a Webkinz. The party includes a Webkinz fashion show. Your child is invited to bring along their favorite Webkinz. The cost is only \$12.99 per child, with a minimum of 5 children.



Advance registration and deposit is required. Please contact Catherine at 574-293-9699 to book your party.

## Help SAVE Mother Earth

Every year millions of nursery pots are used just once and then hauled away to the landfill. By recycling and re-using the pots, we can all do our part to help Mother Earth.

For each used plastic nursery pot (1 gallon or larger) returned to us, Linton's will reward you with a credit of 5 cents per container. And we don't mind if the container was purchased elsewhere. *Note: Pots must be in relatively good condition.*

## CONGRATULATIONS



to Sydney Harmon of White Pigeon, Michigan who was the winner in The Jelly Bean Challenge that was held during our Webkinz Extravaganza in May. There were 1,347 jelly beans in the jar and Sydney won with a guess of 1,300.

We also congratulate all of the winners in our Webkinz Coloring Contest!! Thank you to everyone that participated in the Extravaganza Event.



AS A SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS,  
*Linton's offers complimentary wedding consultations.*

PLEASE CALL RUTH LINTON  
AT 293-9699 TO SET UP YOUR APPOINTMENT!

Linton's Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 - 7:00 • Saturday & Sunday 8:00 - 6:00



## PLANT A TREE ... It will benefit us all!

By *Laura Sherman,*  
*Garden Centre Manager*

Many of us learned in grade school that plants take in carbon dioxide and emit oxygen, allowing us to breathe. But there are many other reasons why we should plant more trees. They also clean up other pollutants like ozone, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide and this is a wonderful thing.

Did you know that, under trees, dew and frost tend to be less than the surrounding areas because less radiant energy is released from the soil, creating a micro-climate. This protects your landscape from the late spring and early fall frost, giving you a slightly longer gardening season.

Planting trees around your home can keep your energy costs down. In summer, the canopy of the trees shades your home, keeping it cooler and warmer in winter by providing a wind break. Trees help reduce water problems near your home. They intercept water by storing some of it and helping to reduce storm runoff. They also help to reduce noise pollution. If you live near a noisy area, trees can really be one of your best friends.

There are also health benefits to having trees. Most of us respond to trees simply by observing their beauty. It makes us feel serene, peaceful and restful. This can help reduce blood pressure and stress levels. Observing and caring for our outdoor environment also gets us some much needed exercise.

Because of a tree's long life, they are frequently used as memorials or to mark a special occasion like the birth of a child, a wedding date or even to christen a new home. Watching and nurturing this type of tree we often become emotionally attached to it. This makes the spot where we planted our tree, a very special place that we will treasure for many years.

So you see, trees are a very important part of our lives that we sometimes tend to overlook. Visit the Garden Centre and let our staff of experts help you choose a perfect tree for your home.

## Employee Spotlight

Introducing ... **Charlie Clarke,**  
**Linton's Landscape Division Manager.**



Charlie coordinates all of our landscape projects and has been a member of our team for one year. He earned a Business Management Degree from Bethel College.

Charlie enjoys working outdoors and watching the transformation of the landscaping going from the "before" to the "after". With 20 years of landscaping experience and 12 years as a business owner, Charlie is a great asset to our team!

## STAYING SAFE WITH ELECTRICITY

Underground electric and gas lines can be buried in your own backyard. Never stick a shovel in the ground before you've called to find out where underground lines are buried. The service is free from the Indiana "Call Before You Dig" Contact Center at their new "811" number. Call a few days before you start your project and utility companies will mark their lines, so you can stay safe.

## SEE SPOT'S SPOT

Think those spots in your lawn are fungus? Maybe not. The family dog is often to blame. What to do? With most lawn grasses, the spots should grow in over time, though reseeding is a quicker solution. The best long-term solution is to train your dog to use an out-of-the-way area. Dietary supplements intended to make dog urine less potent are available, but you should consult a veterinarian before using one.



## A Truly Green Policy

By *Mark B. Linton*

At Linton's, we grow, plant, and sell perennials, groundcovers, trees and shrubs - organic creatures with well-documented and undisputed positive benefits for our Earth. We view the relationship between human life, community and the plants and animals that sustain us to be of the utmost importance.

At both our Nursery and our Garden Centre, we capture and recycle 100% of the water that we use from Mother Nature's rainfall with an extensive underground rain tile and retentive pond system. We target spray for insect pests only as they occur and never unless deemed absolutely necessary. We use leaves and grass clippings from our own facilities as well as from our landscape maintenance customers and animal manure from our Petting Zoo to add to our compost, which we use as soil amendments to fertilize our own plants. This dramatically reduces our chemical fertilizer use.

We take pride in our own landscape, which provides food and shelter for birds and many other forms of wildlife. Linton's Enchanted Gardens has been declared a Wildlife Habitat Zone by the National Wildlife Federation.

Our building uses the latest in passive solar heat in The Conservatory and the area's largest Geothermal heating and cooling system in our retail facility.

At Linton's, we strive to be good stewards so that we can provide quality plants for our customers and generations to come.

## Rainy Day Sale

Rainy Days Need  
Not Get You Down.



Next time the heavens pour liquid sunshine, plan a trip to Linton's Enchanted Gardens. You can shop in the comfort of our Interior Décor Shoppe or Conservatory! When our Rainy Days Flag is flying, you'll save 10% off your day's purchases in the Garden Centre! We even have a supply of umbrellas for you to use if you'd like to stroll through our gardens. You can visit our website, rain or shine, at [www.lintons.com](http://www.lintons.com).

## HAVING AN INVITING YARD IS PROFITABLE . . .

Choose your landscaping project carefully. The value of landscaping is directly related to its permanence, yielding up to a 200% return on your investment. Some landscaping ideas to keep in mind:

Trees add the most value, followed by flowering shrubs. Plants that need to be replanted every year or require excessive care and pruning hold the least value.

Keep your design unified and proportional to the size of your yard. An overpowering landscape may be attractive for a city park, but a turn-off to prospective buyers.

Cover the difficult areas. Bark chips, mulch and crushed rock are good solutions for the areas of the yard where it's difficult to grow or mow the grass.

Linton's has a reputation for providing clients with comprehensive landscape services. Our trained and experienced designers will help you explore options available for adding to your property's livability and appeal.

## Banish Biting Bugs

Instead of heading for harmful insecticides, try an eco-alternative: Fill glass wasp traps with a solution of sugar and water to lure wasps and other pesky insects. Hang a group of them near your outdoor dining table. Visit our Interior Décor Shoppe to see our complete line of glass wasp traps starting at \$4.99.

## ASK IRIS

Dear Iris,

I just bought my first house! Am I excited? Yes, but there is no landscaping. Where do I start?

Signed,  
New To Landscaping

Dear New,

Are you a Do-It-Yourselfer or would you prefer to use professional services? Either way, remember to start with a good design plan. Your landscaping will last longer, make you happier, and require less maintenance. Determine your budget requirements, visit Linton's Garden Center to see what you like and look through books for design styles. Linton's professionals can assess your soil, light and moisture needs. Remember, design plans can also be installed in "phases".

Signed,  
Iris

Dear Iris,

We purchased an older home but didn't like its curb appeal. Our yard needs professional help. We like the flavor but not all the "ingredients" work. How hard is renovating an older landscape?

Signed,  
Lilacs and Old Lace

Dear Lilacs,

Renovation work is where the experience and knowledge of a serious professional will come in handy. Linton's designers can select what should "stay" and what should "go". Think about whether you want to add to the existing recipe or try something totally new. Perhaps a blend of both would fit your lifestyle! Check out Linton's free Do It Yourself Program.

Signed,  
Iris

off the mark.com



by Mark Parisi

AS A SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS,  
*Linton's offers complimentary interior  
accessory consultations.* PLEASE CALL ANDREW  
SKIPPER AT 293-9699 TO SET UP YOUR APPOINTMENT!

## GOING PONDLESS

By Mark B. Linton

What is pondless? Pondless is a term that we use where we design a water feature that does not have a pond. At Linton's, we are seeing this as a growing trend.

Why build a pondless water feature? In a word "maintenance". I think it has to do with lifestyles. People are busier and they don't want to spend time doing maintenance. The ponds that we design and install aren't considered high maintenance, but they do require some work. There is also the safety factor involved with having a pond where young children could fall. With pondless features, we bury the small water reservoir into the ground, putting our homeowner's minds at ease.

Most of our clients are interested in features that combine the sound of running water with low maintenance. The up-front costs are a little less than a pond which also makes it more attractive to our customers. The price range for pondless features that we build are \$1,000 - \$10,000 depending upon the size and features desired. We even have kits for our do-it-yourself customers which start out at \$500. The majority of the pondless features that we build also include landscape plantings and the average cost of these are in the \$5 -6,000 range.

Pondless waterfalls also are easier to fit in the growing number of small backyards. A pondless waterfall doesn't take up all the space that a pond does. We are also seeing a trend with corporations who have begun requesting the features as part of "contemplative gardens" where employees spend time during breaks. They can listen and watch the trickling water while surrounded by beautiful flowering plants, trees and shrubs. It provides a nice "escape" for the employees.

These pondless water features are excellent for those who want to create birdwatching opportunities. These features do a great job of attracting wildlife. Divots in the stones create pools where birds drink and bathe. Installing one last fall for a client, we drilled holes through a huge monster boulder. It was all that our bobcat tractor could handle. It has done a great job of attracting birds for our client. They love it and have even named the boulder "Rocky".

## Legend Of The Hummingbird

Legends say that hummingbirds float free of time, carrying our hopes for love, joy and celebration. Like a hummingbird, we aspire to hover and savor each moment as it passes, embrace all that life has to offer, and celebrate the joy of everyday. The hummingbird's delicate grace reminds us that life is rich, beauty is everywhere, every personal connection has meaning and that laughter is life's sweetest creation.

Visit our Secret Garden to see our large selection of hummingbird feeders starting at \$14.99. We also have hummingbird nectar and feeder cleaners.

## What's Cooking?

### Berry Poppy Seed Salad

- 3 tbsp salad oil
- 3 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp vinegar
- 1 tsp poppy seed
- ½ tsp prepared mustard
- 4 c torn Bibb or Boston lettuce
- 2 c sliced strawberries or strawberries and blueberries\*
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced and separated into rings

For dressing, in a small bowl combine salad oil, honey, vinegar, poppy seed, and mustard. Mix well. In a large salad bowl combine lettuce, berries, and onion. Toss with dressing. Makes 4 servings.

\*When strawberries aren't available, refreshing green kiwi fruit is a delightful substitute in this salad. For 2 cups, peel and slice four kiwi fruit.

**"LET US BE GRATEFUL TO PEOPLE WHO MAKE US HAPPY. THEY ARE THE CHARMING GARDENERS WHO MAKE OUR SOULS BLOSSOM"**

- MARCEL PROUST