



Home In Style With Sherry Pyle

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6 Gardening Tips for Hot Weather

These gardening tips will help your plants survive the summer months, any time you're facing a drought or a long spell of hot weather. Like our other vegan garden tips, they are simple, straightforward and easy to put into practice.



- 1. Fertilize well.** Helping your plants thrive is often a case of proper planning, placement and soil fertility. A strong plant can better withstand the stress of high heat and dry weather. So fertilize the soil well before planting using organic compost and other sustainable stock-free fertilizers. You can also give your plants a boost with liquid fertilizers (like water soluble seaweed powder) a couple of weeks after planting, or in times of stress.
- 2. Choose perennials, heat resistant crops or plants with an extensive root system.** Many annuals have shallow root systems that dry out easily in the heat of summer. By choosing plants with a hardier root system (biennials (produce for two years), perennials, heat resistant crops, etc.) you'll start your summer garden off on the right foot.
- 3. Create a moat.** When planting from starts: Create a small dirt moat around each plant (slightly larger than the drip line, where the leaves reach out to). This channels water towards the roots when the plant is watered or when it rains. This is a particularly good idea if you are working with compacted or sun baked soil.
- 4. Use shade cloth.** Shade cloth can be essential during the summer months. You can use it to protect young fragile seedlings/starts or give larger, more established plants a break from the heat. Shade cloth is available at many garden, home and department stores. There are different grades of "shade" available, depending on the intensity of the sun you are attempting to partially block out.
- 5. Mulch.** When it comes to retaining fertility and moisture in your soil, mulch is on your side. Mulch can attract slugs and other gastropods, but it also protects the soil from UV light, as well as the heat of the sun and compaction, while helping the soil to retain nutrients and moisture.
- 6. Use water catchments to save rainwater.** Even if you use mulch, shade cloth and/or plant heat resistant crops at some point you'll probably have to water. So to save money and other valuable resources, use a water catchment to collect water when it rains. This will give you a free water reserve to use in the gardens during dry periods.

Source: <http://gentleworld.org/gardening-tips-for-summer>

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Greening your Cleaning... Inside and Out!

Cardio 101: How To Start Cycling

Yes, you know how to ride a bike. You learned as a kid, back when your two-wheeler was the only way you could explore the neighbourhood on your own. Biking brought freedom, adventure, delight.

Now you're older, and like just about everything in life, riding seems more complicated. There's traffic to worry about, more equipment to use, and let's face it, crashing hurts a lot more when you're grown up.

Relax. At its core, cycling today isn't much different from when you were a kid. And the activity can help you lose weight, build endurance and even bring back the joy of those youthful golden days. You could get a good workout by hopping on your bike in gym shorts and cross trainers. But if you want to get serious about the sport, ride stronger and explore wider territory, there are a few things you need to know. Visit www.SherryPyle.ca to read more.



Market Stats— Bustling Home Sales in Durham

- The increase in sales activity also had an effect on the sale prices throughout Durham. "We are still seeing average prices rise to record highs", added O'Donohue. The average selling price of a home in Durham reached \$452,412 in June 2015. In comparison, the average selling price was \$395,548 during the same period last year. "The year-over-year price increase of 14.4% represents the willingness of buyers around the region," explained O'Donohue.
- An increase in sales and prices also means that homes are selling faster than they were last year. Homes in Durham are selling in an average of 16 days, compared to 20 days last year. "This market is bustling with sales activity which encourages competition between buyers", explained O'Donohue. "The low interest rates ensure affordability and as long as these factors persist, we expect the current market trend to continue".

Summary of Existing Home Transactions in Durham Region

	New Listings	Active Listings	Avg. Sold Price	Avg. Days on Market
Durham Region	1,796	1,303	101%	16
Ajax	324	141	101%	11
Brock	42	108	97%	61
Clarington	294	230	99%	15
Oshawa	434	243	101%	13
Pickering	235	154	101%	14
Scugog	81	133	98%	63
Uxbridge	61	110	98%	27
Whitby	325	184	101%	14

For full market watch, visit www.SherryPyle.ca



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Not intended to solicit those already under contract

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