

ORGANIC ACCENTS | KNIFE KNOW HOW | BLOOMING BORDERS

BC HOME & GARDEN

INSIDE OUT

Outdoor living rooms

CLASSICAL GARDEN

**ZESTY SUMMER
DRINKS**

**AT HOME WITH THE
VSO CONDUCTOR**

KITCHEN CONCEPTS

Open spaces, stylish storage & more!

plus

**A RANGE HOOD
PRIMER**



Q I have a well-drained, south-facing yard in New Westminster, and would like an arbutus tree. I've heard that they don't grow well except in rocky coastal areas. Would you recommend trying one?

WIM VANDER ZALM answers: You've heard right – arbutus trees only grow well in rocky coastal locations. I recommend growing a tree that will naturally thrive in your yard's environment. Take into consideration your specifications, starting with zone and exposure, along with the desired height and width, blossom, fruit, bark, fall colour and other attributes you desire. Take advantage of your local garden centre's experts – show them a photo of where you're planting the tree and ask for at least three suggestions, noting each recommendation's drawbacks, in addition to care and maintenance requirements. The effort you put in now will reap big rewards, as your new tree will be with you for a long time.



Q I put in a greenhouse last August and covered its floor with garden soil. As an experiment, I planted some kale, leeks and a few other edibles in the soil to overwinter. Along with the plants, I noticed white mould growing on the soil – what is this, how bad is it and what should I do about it? Also, what should I use to clean the inside of the greenhouse?

CONWAY LUM answers: Garden soil contains various fungi that can result in mould when given a warm, moist environment. Many organisms like fungi, insects and weeds are opportunistic, but will generally not harm healthy plants. Soft transplants given excessive watering are vulnerable, though. You can purchase sterilized soil from your garden centre, or use solarization to pasteurize the soil you have now. Dig over the pre-moistened soil and cover it with clear plastic (tucked in on the sides), then allow the sun's rays to heat it up. This process is best done for about four weeks during the latter part of summer. To clean the greenhouse, use a diluted solution of one part Lysol to nine parts water. Alternatively, you could use a similar ratio of bleach to water, but beware that it is corrosive to metal and unhealthy to inhale. Ensure your greenhouse is well ventilated during and after cleanup. ■

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Q What's an effective way of decorating with white without using white furniture, carpets or walls, which can be a liability with children?



TAMARA WOUTERS and EMMA COMESOTTI answer: Our solution to this common predicament is to add pops of white throughout your space, which will contrast with darker backdrops and create the desired light and airy feel. Layer in white accessories, such as beautiful ceramic vases, candlestick holders or ceramic stools. Try framing your artwork in oversized white mattes and frames, or choose a predominately white piece of art. For lighting accents, white pendants, sconces and lamps can have a tremendous impact and are easy to find. And if you're looking for something even more dramatic, invest in white draperies - they will immediately brighten your room.

PHOTO Heather Ross [in house]



Do you have a home- or garden-related question for our experts? Send it to us at homeandgardeneditor@canadawide.com and we'll find the answer.