



DAYLILY

SEDUM

THYME

VINCA

COLORATUS

bear
berry

lysimachia

fern

CORNUS

LILY OF THE VALLEY

LAMIUM

AJUGA

WINTER
GREEN

PACHYSANDRA

WOODRUFF

HOSTA

viola

THYME



RHUBARB AND RECESSIONS

Quite a few years ago, an older man I knew was talking about life growing up as a boy near Hastings, Ontario. Needless to say, his family had far less than we take for granted today. On the dietary side, salad definitely wasn't on the winter menu; meat, potatoes and stored vegetables appeared meal after meal for its duration. The objective was to keep bellies filled as best as possible with limited options.

Spring presented the cook of the house with the chance to improve the diet with nutritious variety: rhubarb. Now, this man's mother knew about nutrition and knew that rhubarb was very good for the family after a long winter. As she put it, nobody was quite right until she had a couple batches of rhubarb through everyone. He recalled that although vitamins were beneficial, the effects on the digestive system were immediate and dramatic.

There have been several recessions since I heard that story and it has occurred to me how much alike rhubarb and recessions are. There are signs ahead that the experience will be personally unpleasant; you'd rather avoid it but know you can't. Neither mother nor a recession spares anyone, but when it is all over your perspective on the world is a bit different. Both serve to clean away the cobwebs and remind us the only thing we can be sure of is change.

As with past recessions, the view of the world will be and should be different when the dust settles. New opportunities will emerge, and as our cover illustrates, you may only have to look up to see them.

Until further, we remain,

Ted and Sandy Spearing

Ground Covers Unlimited





SHOWCASE: RJ ROGERS LANDSCAPING

Location: Kanata, Ontario

Objective: Clients of this modern residential house wanted a garden on the flat garage roof to improve main story views.

Size: 450 sq. ft.

Ground Covers used:

'Dragons Blood' Sedum – 150 × 4" pots

'Massachusetts' Bearberry – 150 × 4" pots

Creeping Thyme – 100 × 4" pots

Viola labradorica – 60 × 4" pots (later replaced)

Notes: Garage roof design included water-retentive "egg-carton" layer and supplemental irrigation system in case of extended drought.



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SHOWCASE:

BLOOM FIELD GARDENS LANDSCAPING & DESIGN

Location: Belleville, Ontario

Objective: To retrofit this Canadian Revenue Agency building with an energy-saving green roof. The roof also captures water for use in the air conditioning system and washrooms inside.

Size: Approximately 1,000 sq. ft.

Ground Covers used:

Sedum sieboldii – 5,112 × 36-cell plugs

Sedum album – 1,332 × 36-cell plugs

Sedum acre – 972 × 36-cell plugs

Sedum 'Red Carpet' – 4,428 × 36-cell plugs

Sedum 'Angelina' – 2,592 × 36-cell plugs

Notes: Plant material was grown on contract. Bloom Field Farm is experimenting on their own farm this coming season to demonstrate small-scale green roof ideas to the public.



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