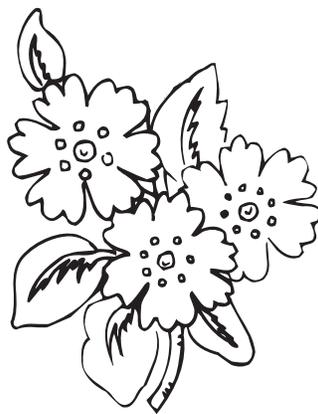


Ground Covers Unlimited

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This is the story of Madge and Harold*,

.. actually Maddie as she likes to be called when feeling especially cosmopolitan.

Sandy and I met them at a horticultural function a number of months ago and their story bears repeating. Dressed in matching gardening outfits, they waited until after the main presentation to approach and initiate a conversation.

Maddie was especially direct and wanted to know specifically about the tags we use. Not realizing the gravity of her question, I gave an offhanded answer which unleashed the wrath that only a **true tagophile** could muster.

As I was made embarrassingly aware in front of a room full of people, horticulture is not just about plants. Madge and Harold, it seems, developed an interest in horticulture very recently. Well intentioned, they visited numerous garden centres hoping to learn as much as possible.

A few tentative purchases and their fears were confirmed: plants are a lot of work and don't look nearly as attractive or reach the size of the tags used to describe them. So, without a second thought, Madge and Harold refocused their efforts into landscaping with tags, which in turn eliminated the fussing over real plants. Other uses quickly followed and at our meeting they feverishly explained how close to completion their Hosta and Hemerocallis tag collections were.

I couldn't help but think that Madge and Harold were experiencing the most serious case of marketing overkill that we had ever seen. Although rarely seen in days gone by, it appears as if no one has immunity from this affliction. Doctors have been at a loss until recently as to how best to treat its victims, though early detection and preventative methods can stem the onset of severe tagophilia.

Fortunately, Sandy and I realized time was on our side and Madge and Harold are now enrolled in a support group which helps tagophiles come to grips with the true meaning of horticulture.

* Names have been changed.

You know, Madge, the garden looks absolutely magnificent!



In the end, Madge and Harold
will live happily ever after in a
garden full of plants.

Until further, we remain,

Ted and Sandy Spearing
Ground Covers Unlimited

Plants first. Tags second.
We promise.

*Oh my gosh! What a lovely
Mother's Day present, Harold!*



*I'll see your vinca
and raise you an ivy,
Harold.*

