

## CELEBRITY HOMES

## Rudolf Nureyev's safe house in London on the market

The London house in which ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev dramatically took shelter when he defected to the West in 1961 is up for sale, the *Telegraph* reports. It is a classic white-stucco home in Kensington, and in need of total modernization. The seller, Nick Gosling, was 18 when Nureyev exploded into his family's life. His parents (his mother was a retired ballet dancer)

and their first Nureyev's first eventually owned. It constantly came back to him. He kept for himself the kitchens, a large priced at £1.9-

## Spring urns bring garden colour to front door

## IN BLOOM

### Simple rules for creating beautiful planters

BY JANET DAVIS

For gardeners with itchy fingers and empty planters, these past five weeks between mid-April, when the weather usually becomes decent, and late May, when conventional wisdom dictates that frost is a thing of the past — have been awfully tough to endure. We've been dying to fill our pots and urns with colour but the cold spring made it a risk to plant such tender annuals as impatiens, verbena and

geraniums that can quickly succumb to cold spring temperatures.

It's easy to fill the void with a container filled with blossoms that celebrate spring's arrival in a burst of colour, yet are hardy enough to shrug off the odd cold blast.

Head to the greengrocer or garden centre and load up on pots of seasonal flowers. Start with a centrepiece: A blowsy pink or blue hydrangea is perfect, but azaleas are lovely too. Remove it carefully from the pot and place it in a container, levelling the soil below so it sits at the right height. Surround it with clumps of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths or grape hyacinths which have been carefully removed from their plastic pots, taking care not to disturb the roots. Make sure they're just starting to flower so you'll get some mileage out of them. Around them, tuck in

smaller pansies, violas, ranunculus and primroses. Edge the whole arrangement with ivy.

For a creative flourish, make an arbour out of four pussy-willow branches, inserting them at the edge of the container and tying them together at the top with a raffia bow. Now fill in the holes with extra soil, water well — and *voilà!* An instant garden in a pot.

You'll need to deadhead the pansies to keep them blooming, and hydrangea require loads of water, so make sure the soil is kept damp. And as the bulbs fade, you can slip in fresh replacements.

Admittedly, stuffing containers with potted posies is more outdoor floral arrangement than true container gardening, but it's a lovely way to bring a touch of spring to the front door. And the plants you use in your container need not go to waste. In the next few weeks, the hydrangea can be dug into the garden, fertilized regularly and allowed to grow on. If it's well protected in winter, it should bear flowers next summer.

The flowering bulbs can be carefully lifted and left to "ripen" (the foliage needs to turn yellow to nourish the bulb for next year's show), then planted in the garden for next spring. They won't be as vigorous as the dormant bulbs that you buy in fall, but they can usually be counted on for a second season.

For gardeners with deeper pockets, there are many floral designers around town who will help you create stunning containers for all four seasons. Depending on the size of your container, prices will range from \$150 and up. Floral designers are generally looking for an annual contract and subsequent return visits, but it's a gorgeous way to go. Some of the best are Teatro Verde (416-733-4447), Horticultural Design (416-488-7716) and Katarina Kutschy Designs (416-889-7413).

National Post



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Hydrangea can withstand the odd cold blast of spring weather.

## THE

## Trees, grass offer colour

## WHINE ABOUT WEEDING

"There are so many different varieties"

In this occasional series, we ask master gardeners for their suggestions for the lowest-maintenance plants that will survive either sunny or shady conditions.

BY ELLEN NOVACK

Landscape designer Kim Price had a tough time restricting her plant choices. Even with our parameters designed for the lazy gardener, she had trouble. We asked that she target those of us who have little time or inclination to plant or maintain a small yard, but rather want a garden with year-round interest. Her passion for foliage, variety and texture was evident by her reluctance to trim the choices to make it simpler for the challenged gardener. However, we persisted.

"There are so many different varieties, and people coming up with new cultivars all the time, so there is a lot to choose from. Make sure you get the right variety," she says. Eventually she decided on a soft yellow and purple colour theme.

It took some discussion to narrow the selection of trees. "I love trees, and plant lots of them.

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