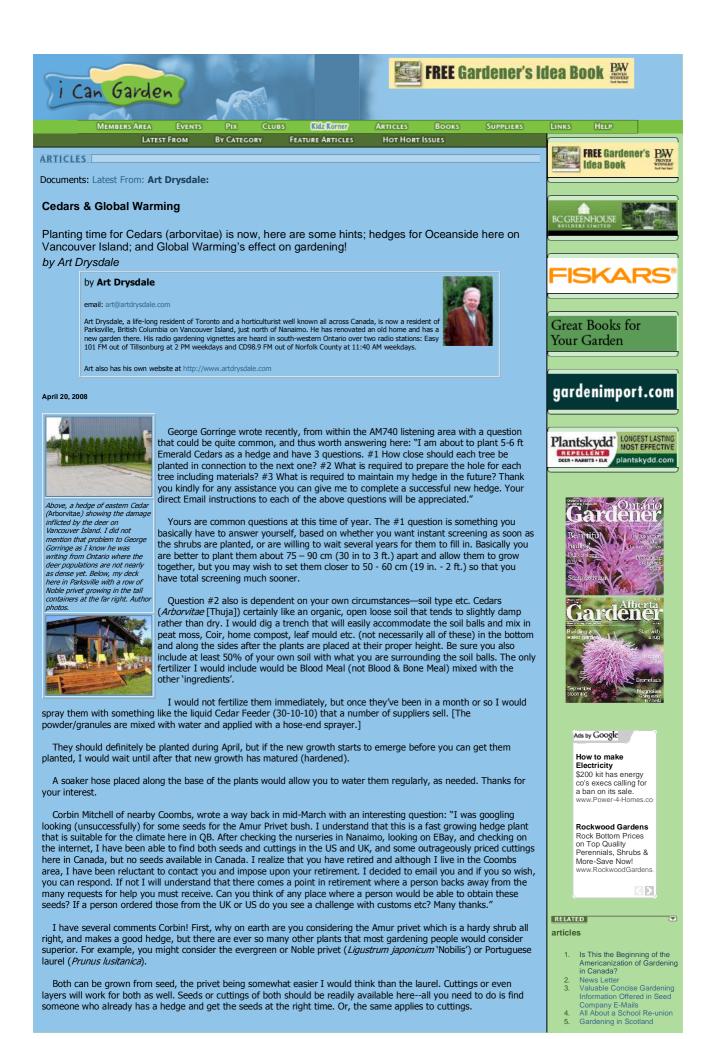
iCanGarden.com Page 1 of 2



iCanGarden.com Page 2 of 2

Not knowing just where this hedge is to go, and what it is meant to accomplish (screen undesirable views, keep animals out, etc.) it is difficult to make specific recommendations, but I think you would be much better off with one of the two mentioned, although there are many other shrubs that will make a good hedge (formal or informal) here in this climate.

And by the way, I have not really retired at all. I still carry out most of the same activities here as I did while in Toronto. But thank you for your thoughts in any case.

Finally this week, the National Wildlife Federation in the U.S. has issued a report on Global warming. "As gardeners, we are both guardians and stewards of our environment,' says Patty Glick, author of the report and Global Warming Specialist for the Federation. 'There are many simple and thoughtful ways we can manage our gardens that can make an enormous difference in reducing the impacts of global warming.'

"A report from international climate scientists released in February of 2007 projects that the Earth's average temperature will rise by 4-11 degrees before the end of this century if our dependency on fossil fuels continues unabated. Another report from this same prestigious group of scientists says that changes are happening faster than expected and the harmful effects of global warming on daily life are already apparent.

"As any gardener knows, even just one degree difference between 32 and 33 degrees Fahrenheit over a period of time can make a huge difference in a garden. Scientists are now finding what many gardeners have already been noticing; earlier leaf out and bloom times, earlier emergence of butterflies and other insects, and arrival of new bird species at the backyard feeder.

"Many of the 'hardiness zone maps' that gardeners rely on to identify which plants to choose for their gardens are already being adjusted to account for the impacts of global warming. The Arbor Day Foundation recently shifted Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and part of Michigan from Zone 5 to a warmer Zone 6 along with other zone changes."

The report includes many other observations and suggestions including stressing the need to plant more native plants, which as far as I am concerned is a ridiculous idea. I don't oppose native plants, but a good case can be made for the need to seek out more non-native plants from areas such as northern China that will grow well in our climates here. I'll leave further quotes from the National Wildlife Federation's report, along with additional commentary, until another article here.

