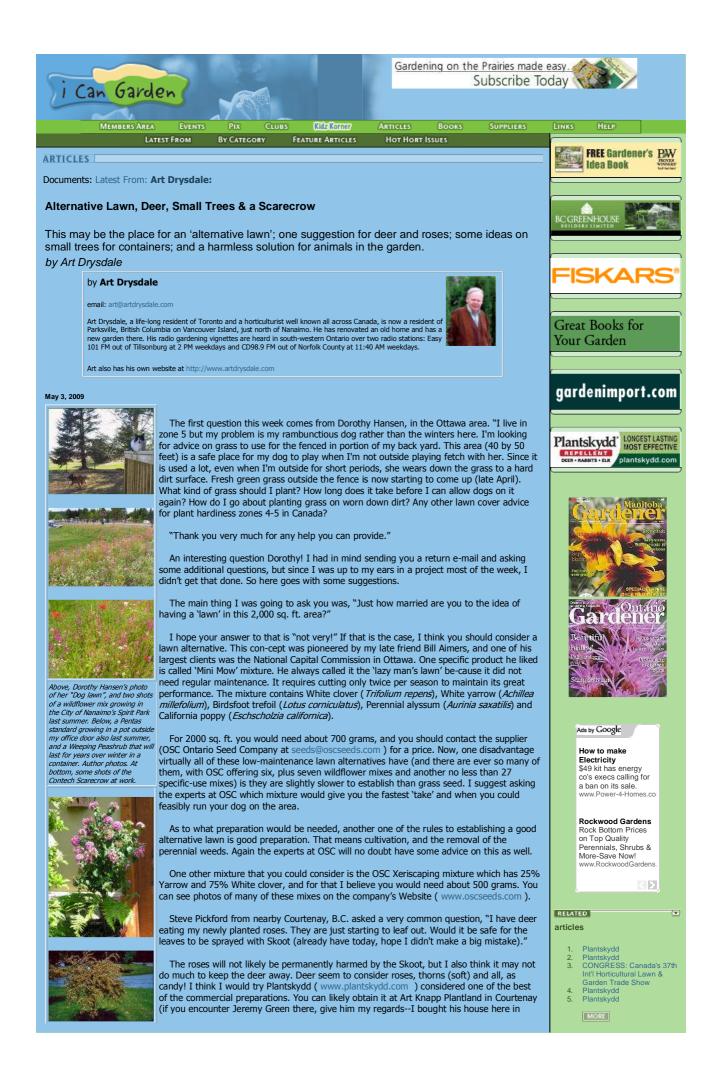
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Parksville)!

There are also several "home-made" remedies which seem to work, and if you cannot find out about one, drop me another note and I shall send one.

Noel Brechin wrote to Donna, also this week, with this question: "We live in Vancouver BC and have a south facing patio [full sun] with a concrete planter that is 24" wide by 16" deep. We want to put a small colourful small tree in. Can you suggest anything?'

That decision is very personal. The first question you need to ask yourself is do you wish a permanent small tree, or would you prefer something that is perhaps more floriferous over the entire season but not hardy over the winter. In the first category are such as: Peegee Hydrangea, Dwarf Korean Lilac (and other similar types), Walker's Weeping Peashrub, Rose-of-Sharon and Fragrant Snowball. In the second category are such 'standards' as Pentas, Popcorn Cassia or Flowering maple. Visit a good garden centre later this month and see what is available, and what you like best.

The fourth query this week comes from the USA, specifically Huntington Beach, California. "I have for the first time grown broccoli, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts. I have been harvesting delicious broccoli and cauliflower for a few weeks now. I had harvested the heads of the broccoli and slowly the florets. I went out to harvest some more yesterday to find half of my cauliflower had been munched on and all the broccoli florets are completely gone. I have a problem with what I thought was just rats eating my tomatoes every summer. These bites from the broccoli and cauliflower seem to be maybe possums, I do see a racoon once in a while in the front of the house. Do possums eat vege's? Do you have any suggestions, I do not want my Brussels sprouts to disappear also."

That's a difficult-to-answer question from so far. Why don't you try a unique product called the Contech Scarecrow motion-activated sprinkler, made here on Vancouver Island. It seems to work well for deer and raccoons, and may work for possums. Check them out on the Web (www.contech-inc.com/Products/Scarecrow) for full information and do let us know how you make out.

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- Down & Dirty
 Dryland Gardening
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 - Organic Low-Maintenance Lawns by Barbara Ellis bbg NATURAL LAWN & ALTERNATIVES
- a Brooklyn Botanic Garden
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 CHEMICAL-FREE LAWN
 The Newest Varieties and
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- Illustrated SECRETS TO GREAT SOIL: ..Composting Mulching & Creating Healthy Fertile Soil for Your Garden & Lawn by Elizabeth P. Stell Rodale's S.O.G. series
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