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Louis Raymond Develops New Eco-Technology

New York, NY ...Louis Raymond, Principal of Renaissance Gardening Ltd., has made a life-altering, if not life-saving discovery that will finally allow people allergic to bee stings to sunbathe, picnic, relax and play outside in their own backyard without being terrorized by the ominous buzz of an approaching bee. No longer are they forced to flee from their own little corner of paradise—the beauty and perfume of annuals, perennials, flowering shrubs and trees—because they or their loved ones are among the five percent of the population who must avoid apiarian venom at all costs.



It all started when a New England couple, wanting their severely bee-allergic children to be able to experience the morning dew on their toes, the warmth of the summer sun, and the pleasures of swimming in their own pool or enjoying a backyard barbecue, decided to hire a professional.

Because of their allergies, these children had been doomed to spending the summers either indoors or in a screened-in gazebo. Their parents had discovered that bee-sting allergies can have serious consequences: massive swelling, tightness in the chest, difficulty in breathing, swelling of the tongue, extreme dizziness, a sharp drop in blood pressure, unconsciousness and possibly even cardiac arrest. These reactions can occur within minutes of the sting and are potentially life-threatening. For this family, spring was not a season of renewal, but a season of dread.

These parents, tired of the fear and aggravation blooming on their very own property year after year, contacted master landscape designer Louis Raymond of Renaissance Gardening. The result

was a horticultural investigation of botanical proportions.

While delving into his client's case Louis hypothesized that the obvious way to protect their children was simply to keep bees a safe distance away. He was determined to do no harm to one of the earth's most productive and beneficial creatures. No gardener wants to do anything to threaten the bee population, as most plants are pollinated by bees and, without them, there would be few flowers and even fewer plants embellishing our natural environment.

The question, then, was how to rid his client's property of bees—without exterminating them. The solution became clear to Louis: banish bees by creating a landscape with nothing to attract them.

Louis immediately launched an investigation into plants pollinated by means other than bees. What he encountered was a baffling deficiency of clues: no established body of knowledge, no database yet existed on pollinators. He pored through his own horticultural library and then examined tomes of botanical data. He grilled fellow landscape designers and interviewed expert gardeners and came up with nothing—no clues, no indications where to look, whom to trust. It was clear to Louis that the world's collected knowledge on how each plant is pollinated was slim, if not non-existent.

Incredibly, not only had no gardeners and botanists throughout human history ever compiled a database on which plant is pollinated in what manner, neither had any individual study of pollinators ever been undertaken. Louis quickly realized that, in order to identify the horticulture that he could specify for a landscape design that would repel bees, he would have to launch his own comprehensive search. What had seemed like a painfully obvious solution had, apparently, never occurred to anyone else before. This turn of events was bewildering and came as a complete surprise. Louis rose to the challenge. Armed with horticultural experience of grand proportions, a natural inquisitiveness and the confident hope of his clients, he embarked on a voyage of discovery. Once again he turned to his peers—gardeners and landscape designers the world over—and began collecting raw data in the form of anecdote.

One gardener, for instance, mentioned never having seen bees around Japanese anemones, and this beautiful white flower initiated a list of potential suspects. Ferns predate the whole strategy of pollination. Magnolia is so ancient that it evolved before flying insects, and is pollinated strictly by crawling insects. Bamboo, like all grasses, is wind-pollinated. Trumpet vines, of course, are famous for being pollinated by hummingbirds, and Louis recalled that slugs pollinate ginger. Thus, through research and networking, Louis detected a range of plants, a palette of colors and variety of forms of stunning grace and harmony—all of no interest to bees.

To further expand his selection of appropriate choices, Louis also specified plants—shrubs, trees, vines, perennials—that flower rarely, if at all; those whose normal pruning regimen prevents flowering; and those that flower before or after the summer months when children are outdoors playing.

The outcome of Louis's quest? An entirely new ecological technology: the bee-free, yet gorgeous, gracious garden, one that is safe for those allergic to bee venom. Today, the family picnics and the children play outside all summer long—healthy, happy and safe. Louis is the proud, if somewhat surprised, creator of an entirely new landscaping technology.

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Renaissance Gardening® Ltd. is a full-service landscape design company committed to enhancing the natural beauty of outdoor living environments. By achieving balance among design, horticulture and hardscaping, Renaissance Gardening creates landscapes that satisfy clients' needs and preferences for functionality and aesthetics, and enrich the lives of those who experience them. From offices in Hopkinton, RI and New York, NY, Renaissance Gardening serves an international clientele whose properties range from country estates to urban terraces.

For more information on Louis Raymond and Renaissance Gardening, please visit www.rgardening.com, or contact Katerina Caterisano, Public Relations Director, Network Design and Communications; phone: 212/431-4675; fax: 212/431-5786; email: Kat@networknyc.com.

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