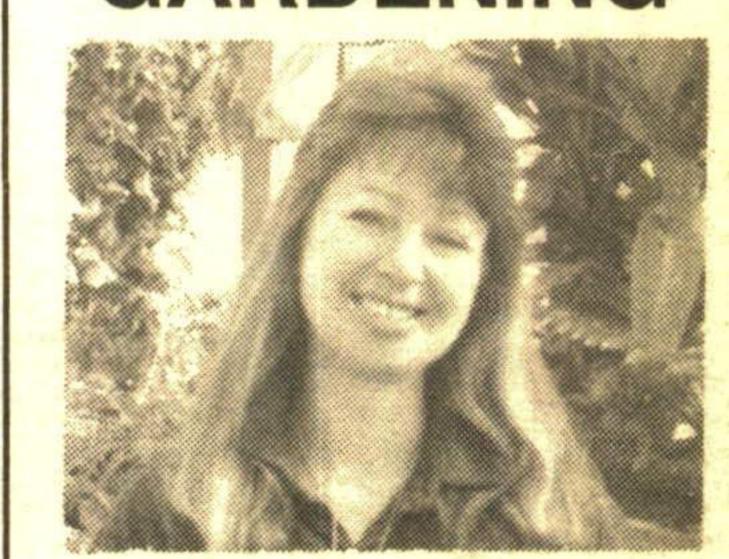


GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Nutrients derived from natural compounds are considered organic fertilizers. Compared to most commercially prepared fertilizers, organic ones have lower levels of the essential elements - (N.P.K.), Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. However, many organic fertilizers have the added benefit of improving the organic content and condition of the soil at the same time as providing nutrients. Readily available sources of organic fertilizers include: animal manures, household and mushroom compost, and blood and bonemeal.

The nutrients available for plants from manures differs with the animals producing it. But, in general, Poultry and Sheep Manures have more of the essential elements (N.P.K.) than cattle and horse manures. Household and mushroom compost will also vary in their nutrient content. But they are both excellent sources of organic matter for all garden beds. Blood and bonemeal are also animal byproducts that provide valuable nutrients. Bloodmeal is high in nitrogen and low in phosphorus and potassium. Therefore it promotes green, vegetative growth on plants. (Some people also claim that it repels rodents from plants.) Bonemeal is rich in phosphorus and low in the other two major nutrients. Therefore, it is valuable to incorporate it into the soil to promote root growth, especially when transplanting trees, shrubs, flowers, bulbs, etc.

Plants grown in soil with a proper balance of fertilizer (commercial or organic) develop to their greatest potential, and can resist disease and insect infestations better too!

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace!

TUITMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE

ACTON 853-2480