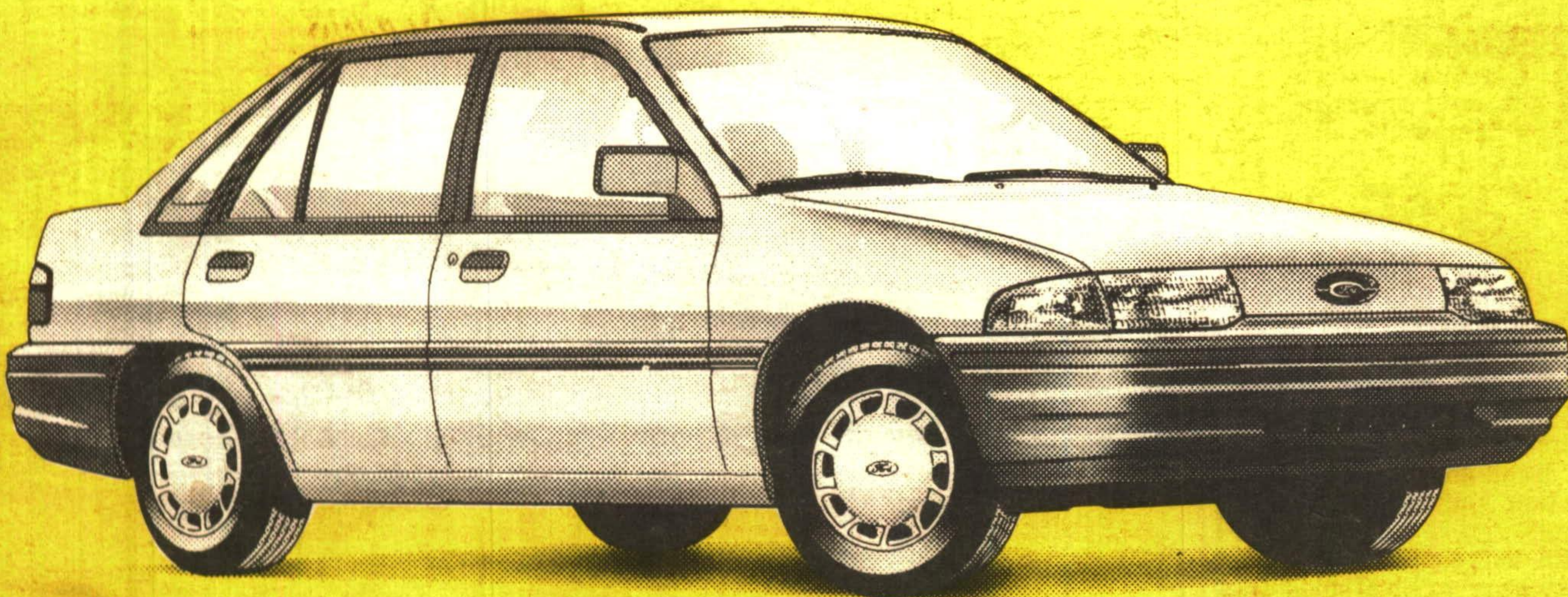


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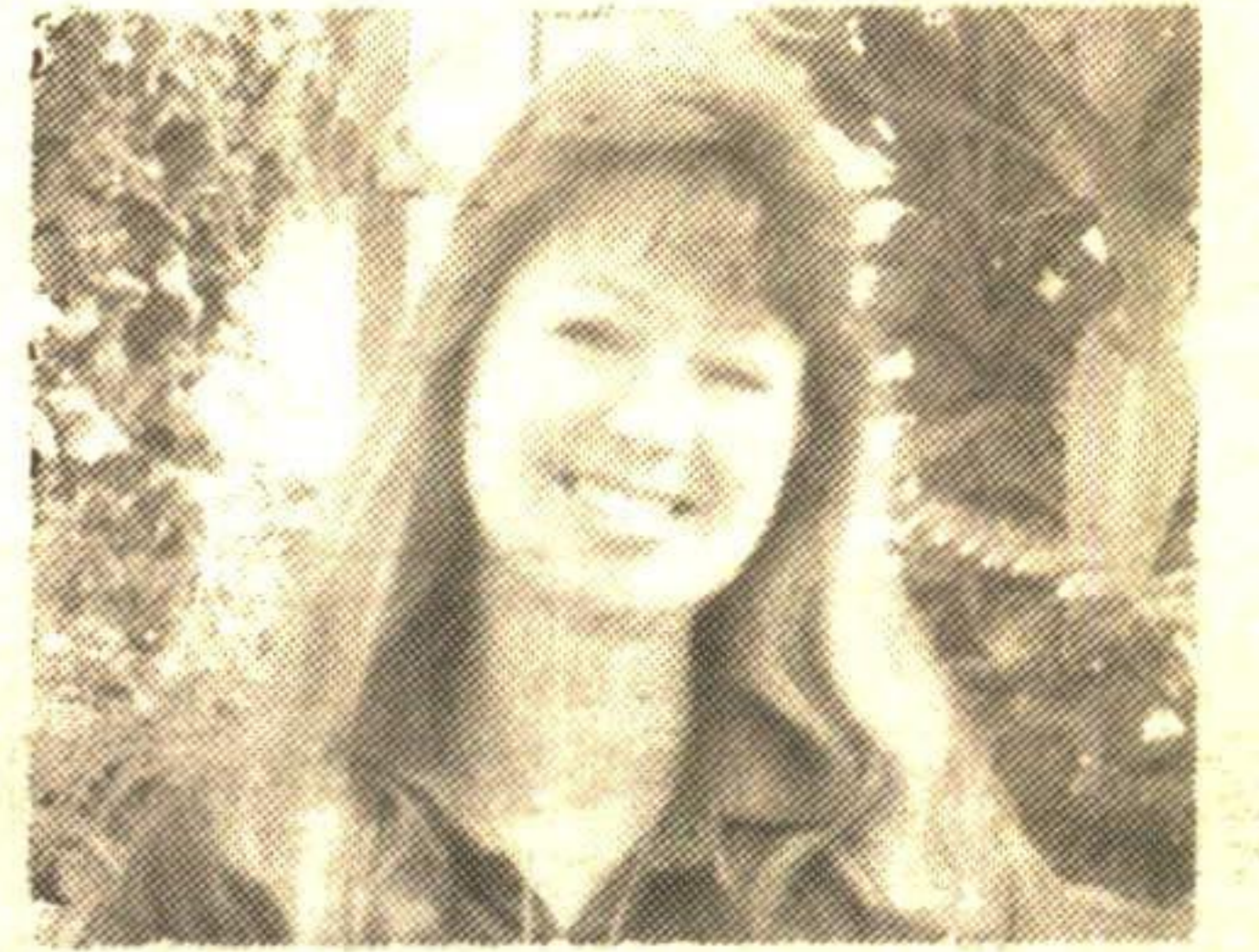
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GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By **CHRISTINE COLE**
PLANTS FOR WET SOILS

Water is an essential ingredient in growing healthy plants. However, too much of a good thing can be detrimental. Moist, damp, poor drainage, excess moisture; it doesn't matter what you call it, the problem remains the same. The conditions are too wet to grow most desirable plants. The reason - in excessively moist soil, the air spaces are filled with water resulting in a lack of necessary oxygen to the roots. Visible signs of excessive moisture is chlorotic foliage (yellowing), poor to slow growth or even result in death. Our unusually moist spring this year could be fatal to drought tolerant plants.

Red Maple trees are known for their tolerance of moist soils. Red Maples have red buds and flowers in the spring, but the leaves are green all summer. At maturity it attains a height of 50 to 60 feet tall.

Saskatoon berry is a small tree or large shrub (18 feet) that will also survive and thrive in moist conditions. It produces an abundance of white flowers in the spring. When in flower it creates a lovely, wispy, cloudy appearance in July, plump, tasty berries develop.

Most Dogwood shrubs (Silveredge, yellow leaf and yellow twig) are all attractive choices. Their flowers are insignificant but their foliage and twigs add a touch of contrast. And during the winter their bark (red or yellow) provides a welcome bit of color. Six feet at maturity, makes it a shrub that can be used on many situations.

Forsythias are one of the first flowering shrubs to bloom in the spring with their cherry yellow blossoms. They are fast growing to about 5 feet forming a robust yet graceful shrub.

Most viburnums (including cranberries and snowballs) are easy to grow in moist soils. They produce white flowers and attractive bright red fruit in the fall. Birds enjoy them. They grow 9-14 feet tall.

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 show-place!

TUITMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE
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