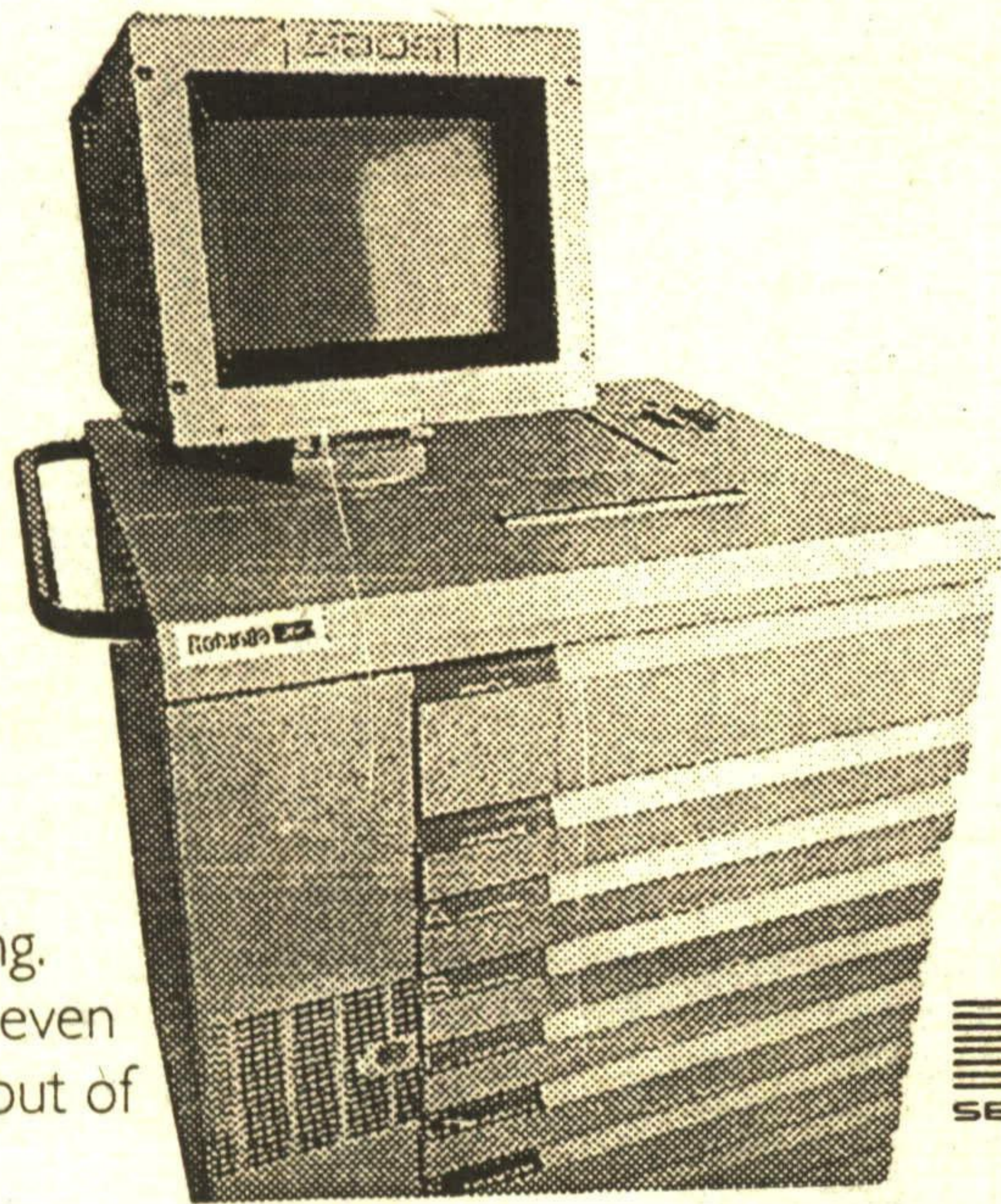


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## GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By **CHRISTINE COLE**

### FOUNDATION PLANTING FUNDAMENTALS

Have you ever noticed what a house looks like when there are no shrubs planted around its foundation? It's kind of stark and naked, and lacking a warm, welcome feeling. Well, that is basically the function of planting shrubs around the foundation of the house, especially the front exposure. Foundation plants provide a link between your house and your surrounding landscape.

Evergreens are always a popular choice since they provide year-round appeal. However some flowering shrubs should also be considered. They can provide a spectacular display during one or more seasons. Some have a wonderful foliage entrance and/or exit to the season as well as their floral display.

However, before you put a spade in the ground to prepare the bed for some new shrubs this season, Stop, and consider a few fundamentals first. Remember (it may seem elementary) but these plants grow. When plants are grown too close to the foundation, they cannot grow properly. Those that require sunlight will eventually die off at the back of the shrub. If it had been planted further out from the building it would have grown symmetrically without dying out at the back. Also, the shrub, especially upright junipers will gradually grow out as they grow up. Over time they lean away from the house at a precarious angle.

Most shrubs will grow to fill a diameter of three feet. To allow adequate room to grow properly, no shrub should be planted closer than two and a half feet from the wall (unless you plan on training it up the wall). Although to know exactly how far the plant should be from the wall, you must understand how large each plant will grow at maturity. Just ask! You will be happy you did.

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!

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