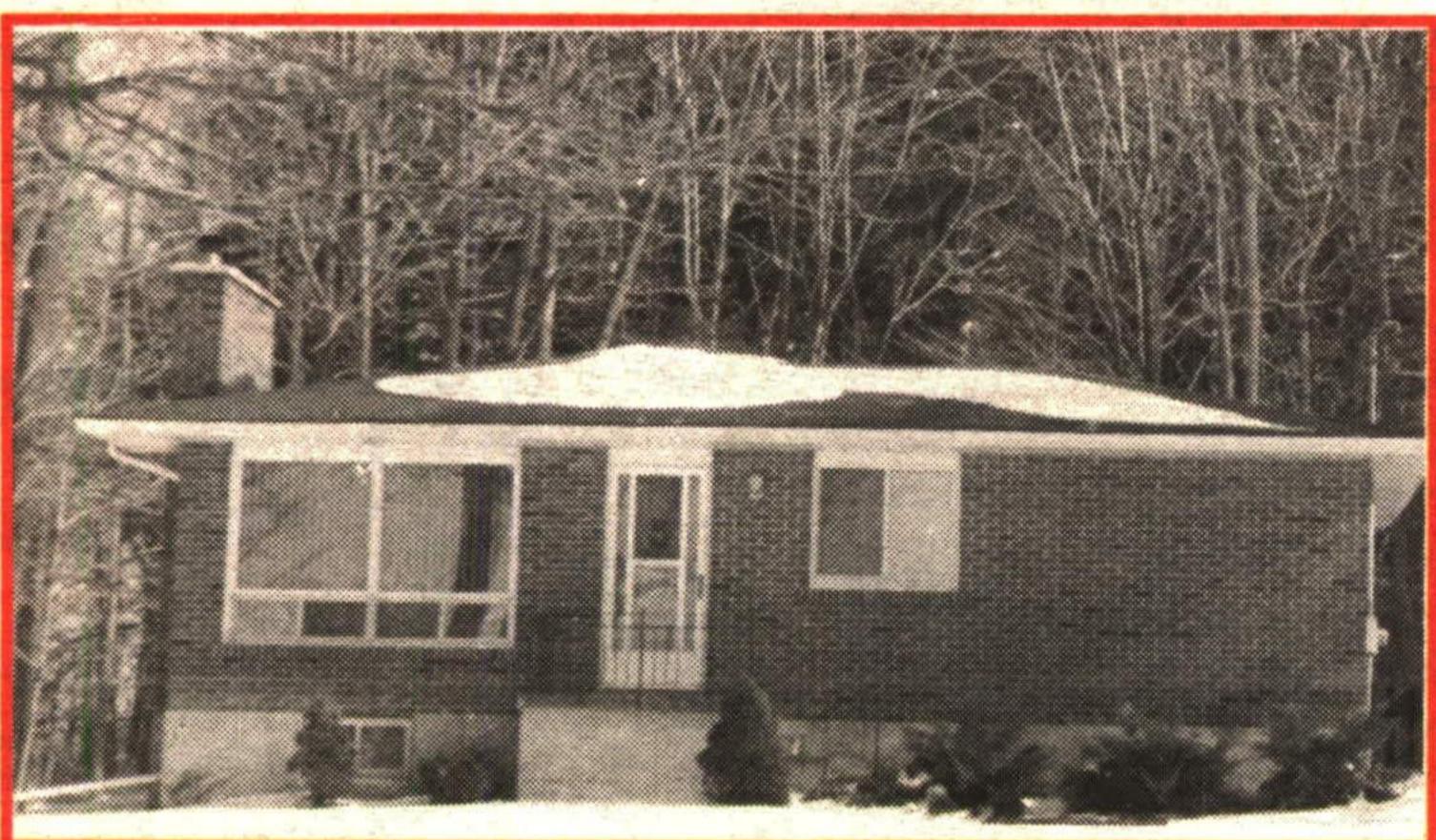
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### GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

### LAVENDER

Lavender is a perennial herb that has stood the test of time. Lavender has been an essential plant in gardens since Roman times. The Romans were known to bathe in water that was infused with lavender flowers. They introduced it to England. And today England and France still grow it in large quantities for the perfume industry.

Although Lavender does not grow here like it does in Europe, it can still be grown successfully. The main difference is that it doesn't grow as tall here. Our winters are too severe. In fact, the dwarf varieties, such as Munstead survive our winter the best. It still displays the characteristic grey-green foliage, mauvepurple flower spikes and no shortage of that intoxicating scent. Lavender is classified as a herb, but it can also be considered an attractive garden perennial. Even when not in bloom, its foliage and shape are effective.

Like most herbs, Lavender grows easily in poorly fertilized, well-drained soil. If grown in rich, well-fertilized soil the scent will be decreased. Lavender loves lime based soil as well. Therefore, you do not have to add peat moss to the soil at planting time. It will like it unmended. Lavender performs best in full sun.

Lavender blooms can be gathered when the blooms are beginning to open, hung to dry, and used in pot pourri or put in scent sachets. Or as the English do in their knot gardens use Lavender as a hedge. When planted in this manner, Lavender can be clipped and maintained as a short hedge. At maturity it will reach a height of 1 1/2 feet.

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