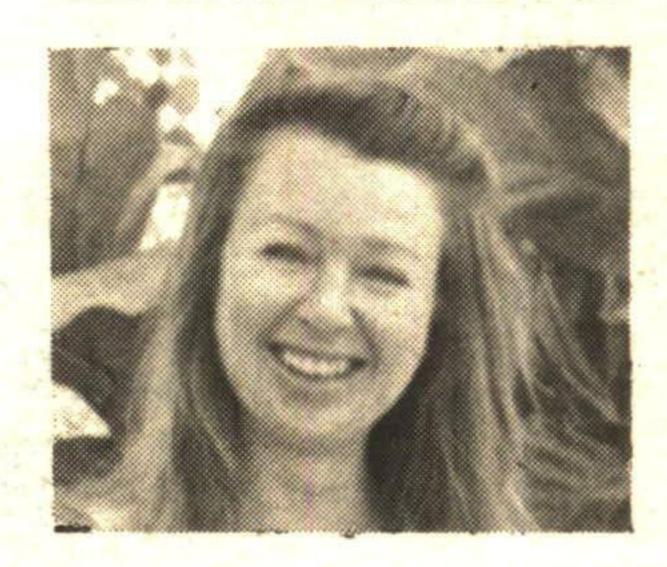


## GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

## Blooming Beauties

HOW TO KEEP YOUR ANNUALS HEALTHY AND BLOOMING ALL SUMMER LONG

1. Always choose plants to suit the sunlight condition. Sun-loving annuals do not perform well in shaded conditions & visa versa for shade-loving plants.

2. Prepare & amend the soil before planting where needed. Heavy clay soils & light sandy soils can be improved with the addition of organic matter such as peat moss, manure & or clay breaker.

3. Keep the plant watered regularly. The flowers will quickly fade without enough water & conversely, too much water can do as much harm - especially on sensitive plants like impatients, begonia & fuscias that quickly deteriorate with excessive water. A thick layer of mulch (cocoa beans, bark, marble chips) will help to conserve soil moisture, keep the soil temperature cooler & an added benefit - it will suppress weeds (which compete with the annuals for soil moisture & nutrients).

4. Fertilize on a regular basis. This can be done with water soluble fertilizer that you water in or slow release granules that you work into the soil or slow release pebbles that you sprinkle on the soil (for pots & planters).

5. Remove faded flowers from plants before they go to seed. This is especially important on petunias, geraniums, pansies & marigolds. Just removing the petals is not sufficient. You must remove the swollen area below the bloom (which will form the seeds).

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