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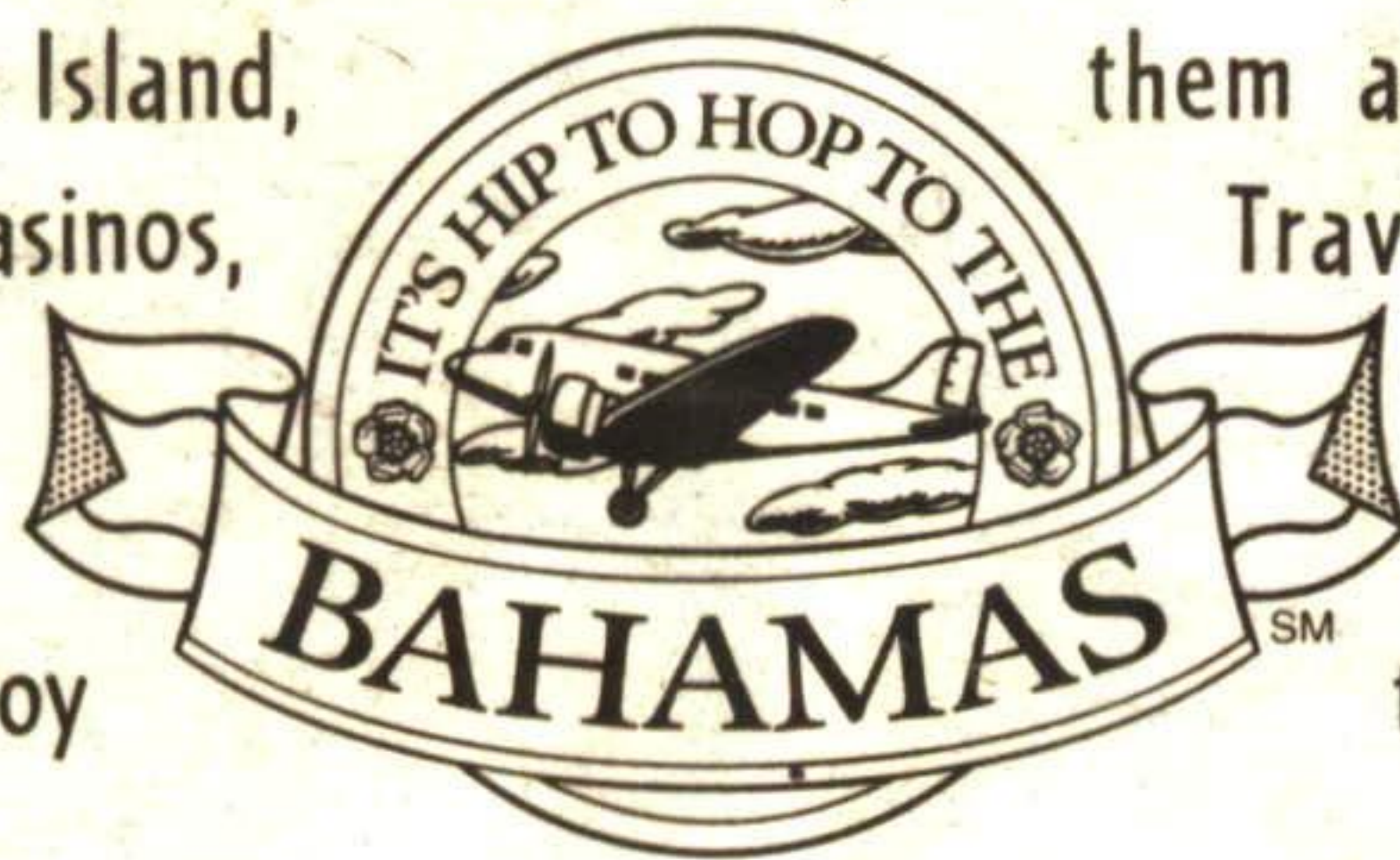
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GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

Garden Design

What makes a garden, a garden; and not just a collection of plants. This distinction is the challenge and the art of designing a landscape. The placement and arrangement of the plants makes the difference between a garden and a collection.

The greatest enjoyment is attained when a landscape is picturesque throughout the whole year. To achieve this you must establish a permanent framework with evergreens. They will provide the main focus for the fall, winter and early spring. Some trees and shrubs can add interest during this time as well. Especially those with interesting architecture (Camperdown Elm, Weeping Shrubs and Corkscrew Hazel) and colorful bark (Dogwood, Kerria). For the rest of the season great emphasis is put on colorful flowers. Again, selection and placement of trees, shrubs, and perennials is important so that there is something interesting happening all through the season. However, consider the fact that most trees, shrubs and perennials are in flower for only two to three weeks. For the rest of the season you are viewing the plants' foliage. For this reason foliage plays an important part in the garden. So as well as designing the garden so that flowers are continuously in bloom throughout the yard, consideration should also be made to that plants' foliage, and the plants around it. Contrast in leaf texture, color and shape are important. For example, a daylily, tradescantia and iris placed close together would lack contrast because they all have similar foliage shape and color, even though they bloom at different times. A more exciting and appealing combination would be a daylily, astilbe with a hosta placed in front of them. The daylily has long, arching, strap-like foliage while the astilbe has a more upright structure with finely cut, fern-like foliage and the hosta produces large oval, robust leaves. The difference in their foliage contrasts with the others making them more attractive from spring until fall.

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
 ACTON
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