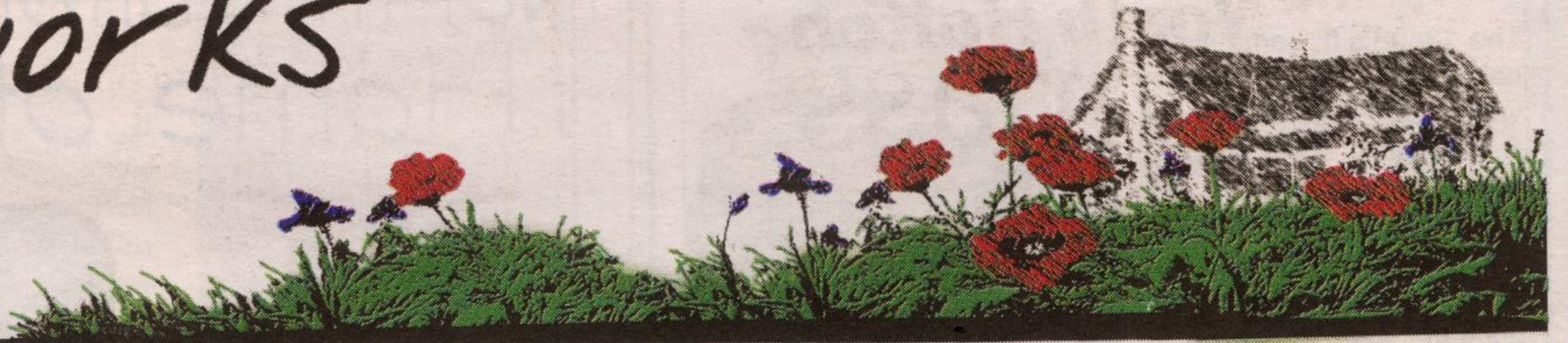


Homeworks



Splendour in Milton

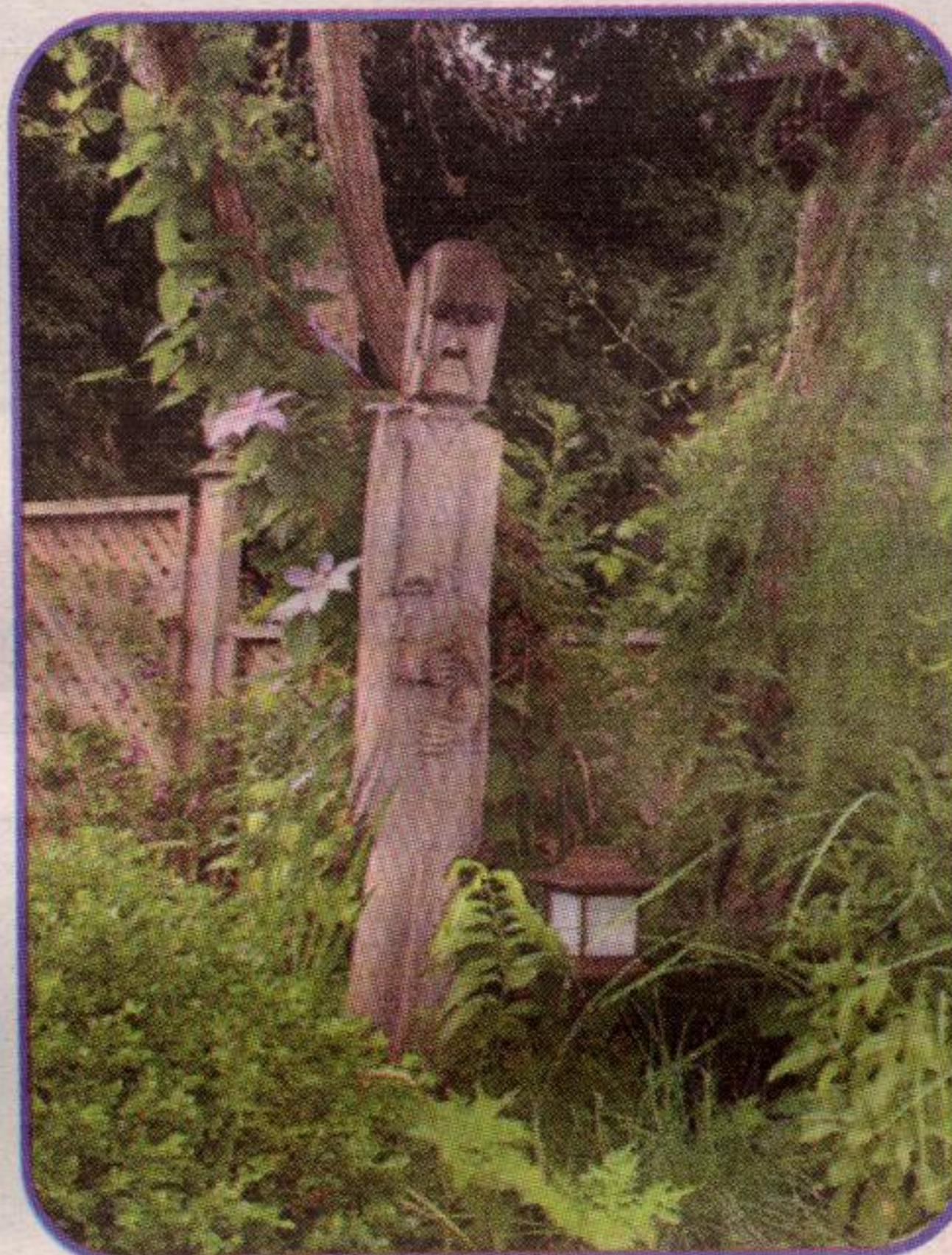


Jennifer Mirosolin has been gardening for as long as I've known her. Like most gardeners, she's rarely happy with the results, and so her gardens are forever changing. Every visit to Jen's is a surprise. She is a master gardener and a past president of the Milton & District Horticultural Society. How Jennifer finds time for her garden is beyond me.

Note the fantastic contrasts in texture and foliage colour. These are far more important to your garden than flower colour and duration.

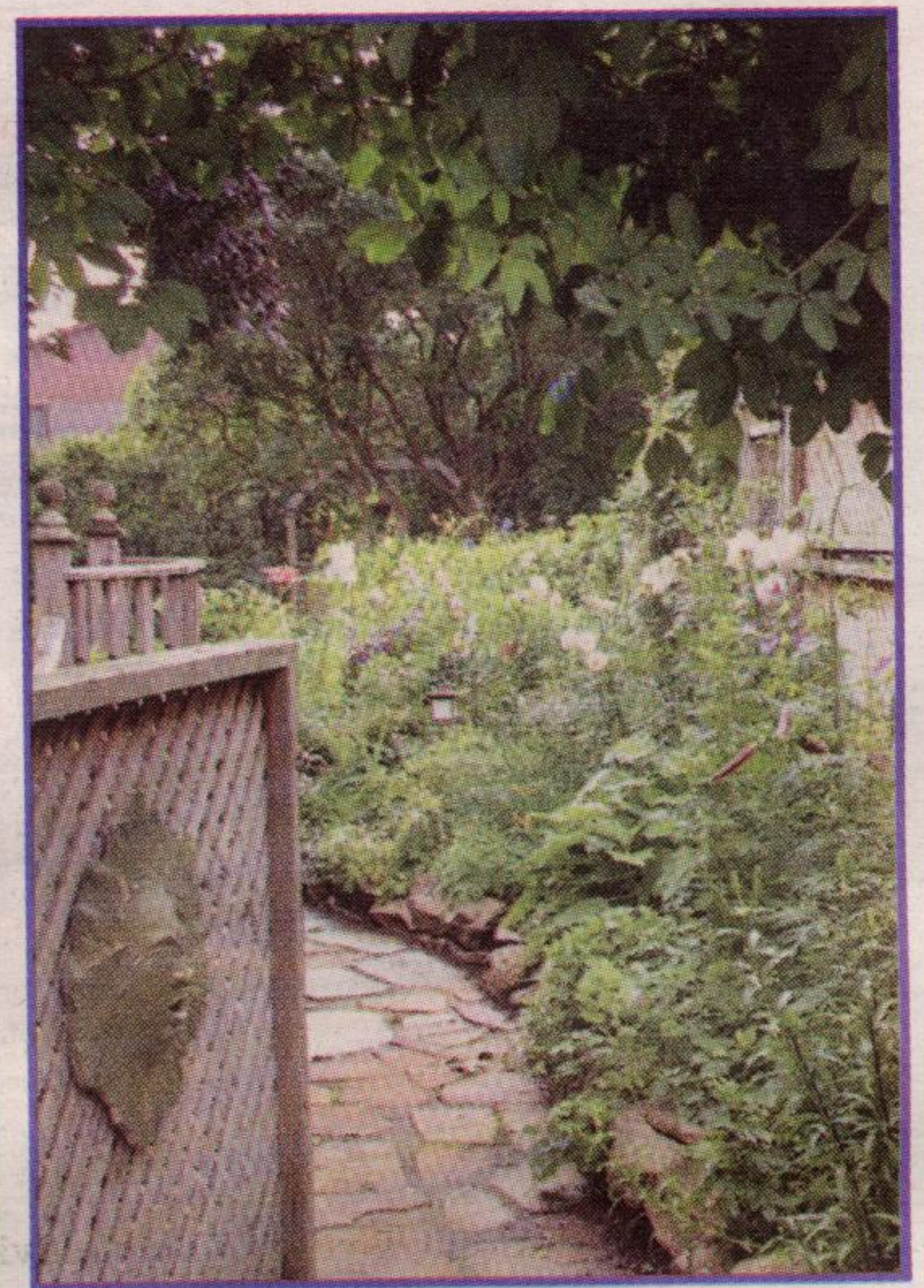
Green tapestry

This is a fantastic portrait of texture in the landscape. The Yellow Flag Iris contrasts with the bold Arrowhead with different shades of green. Ferns or Astilbe would set this off beautifully.



Gilgamesh

I'm a big fan of sculpture in the garden. It has to be personal. Use what you feel is best, even if it's a gnome - yea, verily even these have a place. Gilgamesh, the king, is perfect in this setting. It gives a sense of age to the landscape as well as being the right scale.

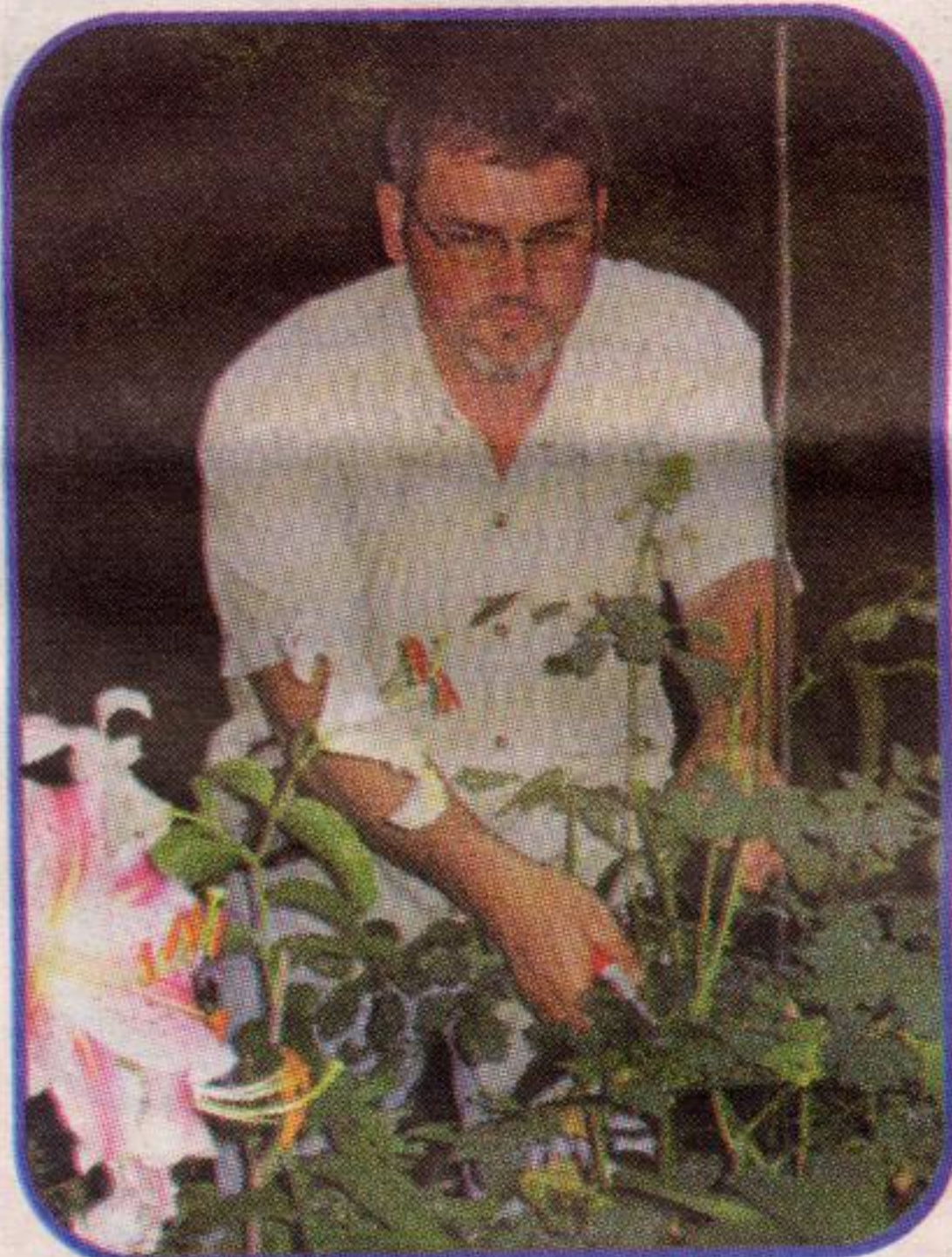


Gateway to Eden

An effective entrance to a garden is a must. The gate hides enough of the garden to create mystery yet shows enough so you want to see more. I love the whimsy of the clay face. The arch is covered in a fantastic, shade tolerant, rather rampant vine known as Five Leafed Akebia (*Akebia quinata*). Just to prove that you can do anything to which you put your mind, even the flagstone walk was installed by Jen and her husband, Richard.

The importance of pruning

Pruning perennials after they flower can prolong the season of bloom in your garden. It only takes a few minutes, but the benefits last for weeks. Phlox, Delphiniums, Veronica and Gaillardia all benefit from removing spent flowers. Pictured here is Sean James at work in Jennifer Mirosolin's garden.



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