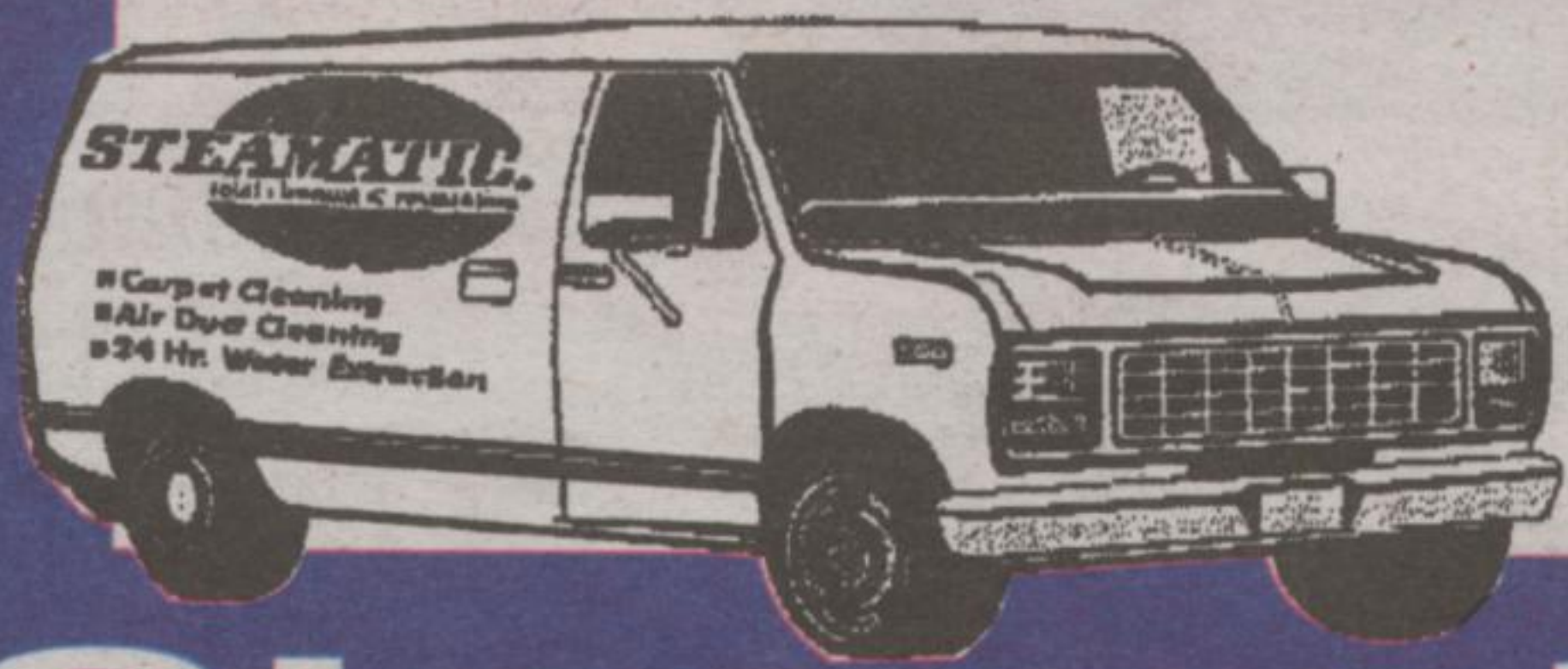


10 H, L & G Independent & Free Press, Wednesday, May 2, 2001

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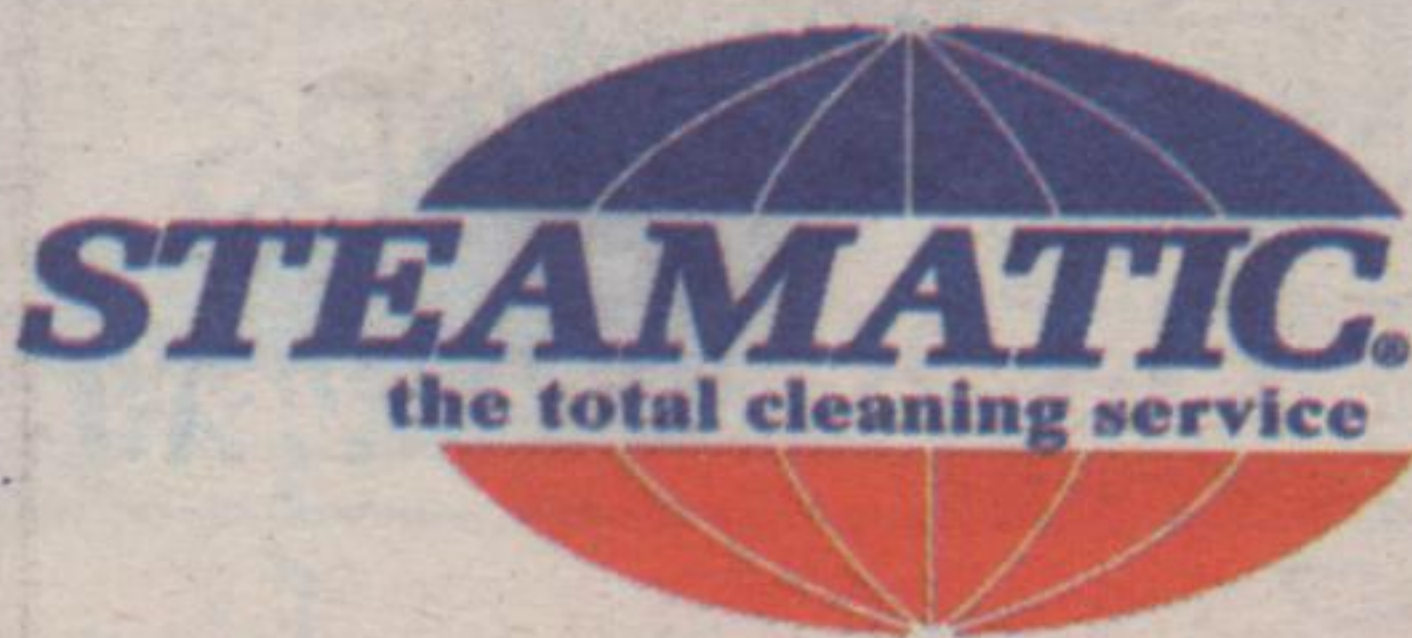
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Puppies and gardens don't always have to be a disaster waiting to happen

She is cute, cuddly, friendly, protective, loyal, and well-behaved. Yet sometimes I am very upset with her for pooing on my rhododendron.

To save any confusion I am describing my dog. I will spend countless hours preparing and maintaining my garden, and it takes Romy Puffy Pants "The Herbaceous Destroyer" 10 seconds to ruin it all!

I have planned my garden to avoid puppy disaster this year. If you have a puppy or a full grown dog, you might consider the following ideas to enjoy your canine friend, and your garden:

- Create a dog path behind beds and along fences. Established plantings will hide the path and allow the dog to run the length of the yard. The width of the path would be adjusted to the size of the dog.
- Mulch the beds to avoid the dog bringing soil into the house.
- Creating a fenced dog run-sounds simple, if you have the room. This would keep the dog out of the garden.
- Give up on growing grass. Use

paving stones, gravel, or interlocking brick instead. These materials and products are less labour intensive than grass, and can be washed with a garden hose. This decreases your dog's contact with fertilizers and pesticides used to maintain lawns.



- Plant tomatoes and herbs in pots. One summer we had beautiful tomatoes that we could not eat because of a foul taste that we believe resulted from the bedding. You can also plant vegetables in the front yard, so that the dog would avoid interaction with the plants.

Following is a list of plants that will tolerate dog-play. Notice that most of the plants are quick growing and will fill in quickly when damaged. This list is dedicated to "Triumph the Insult Dog" from the Connan O'Brien Show.

These plants are good enough for him to poop on: daylilies, mint, lamium, lamb's ears, rudbeckia, Siberian iris, peonies phlox, hostas, astilbe and roses.

—By Cecilia White, CW Horticulture Georgetown

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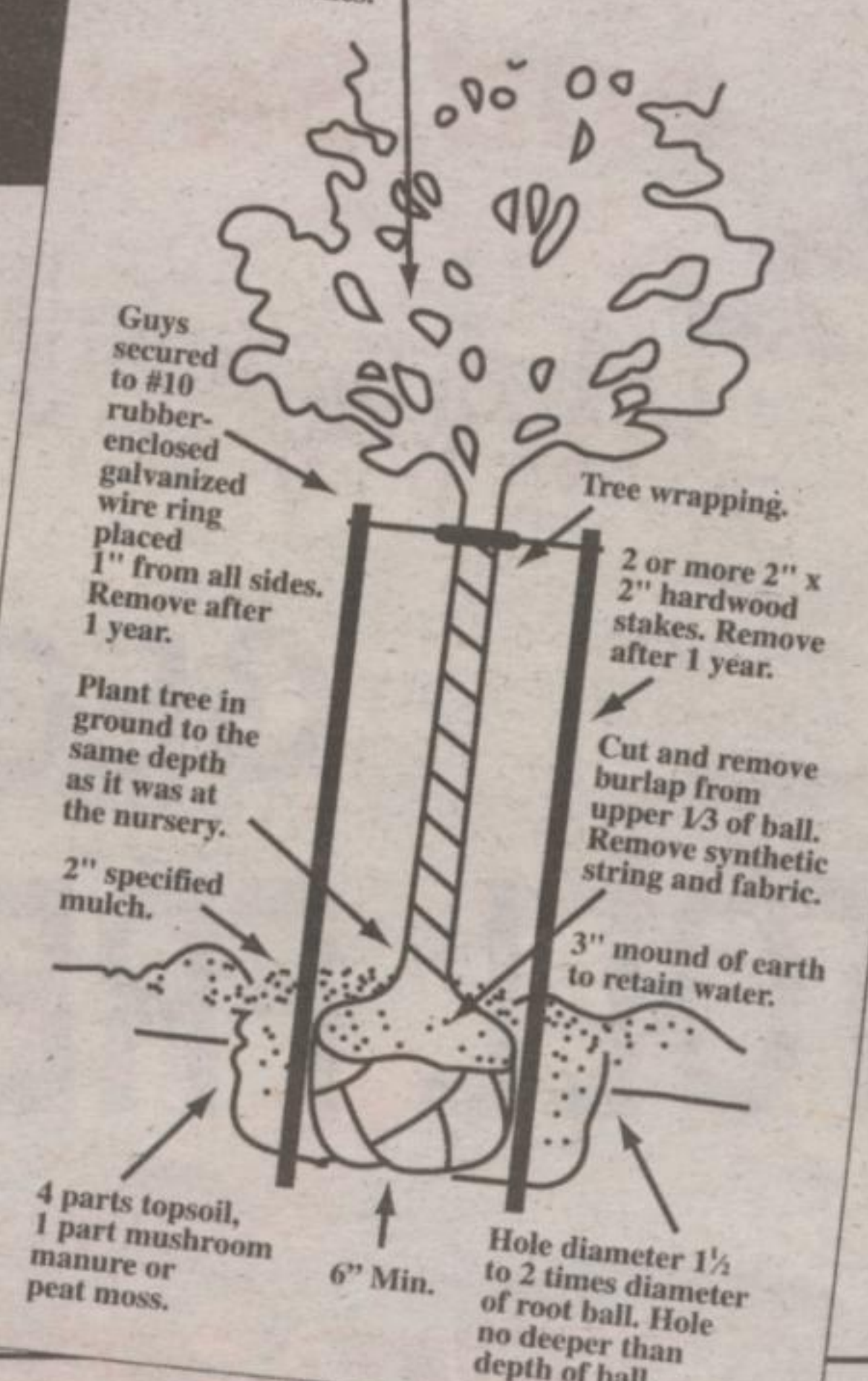
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Gardening Tip Tree Planting

Instructions

Without trimming the central leader, thin interior branches and foliage plus remove crossing branches.



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