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Gardens need a pinch of peat

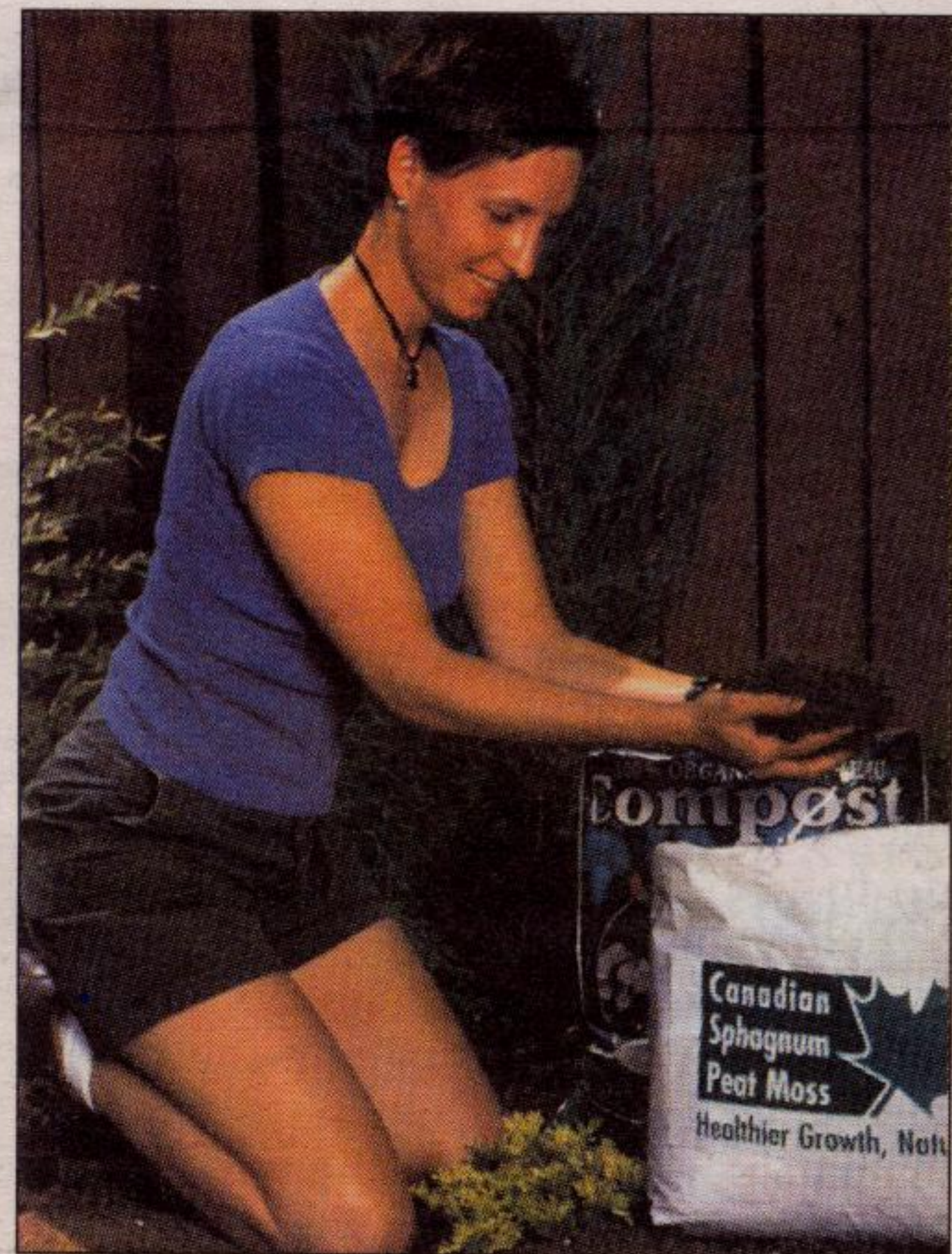
An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but it can also work wonders for your garden.

Just as our bodies need nourishment to thrive, the healthiest gardens are the ones with a balanced diet of beneficial soil amendments. Compost — made up of organic materials like fruit and vegetable peelings, lawn and garden debris, as well as other things — can help a garden flourish. And, when combined with a proven soil amendment like peat moss, compost turns ordinary soil into the rich, dark, vibrant "black gold" that gardeners crave.

The combination of peat moss and compost is like a vitamin shot designed to build healthy soil. Think of peat moss and compost as two of the most important "food groups" for your lawn. Separately, they're building blocks that supply soil with many of the critical elements of good gardening. But together, they're even more effective, providing a balanced, nutritious meal that can ensure a healthy garden for an entire season.

Here's a simple recipe: Spread 1 to 2 inches of peat moss and 1 to 2 inches of compost over your garden, then dig them into the top 6 to 8 inches of soil.

How does it work? When peat is blended with compost it does two things: First, because peat stays in soil for years, it helps balance the faster-decomposing compost, which breaks down in a few months. The longer organic matter



stays in the soil, the more good it does. Second, peat reduces compost's tendency to compact, loosening the soil and allowing water and oxygen to flow to a plant's roots. The peat/compost duo also saves time and money by reducing the amount of water and fertilizer a garden needs. And peat's higher acidity helps balance compost's low acidity, resulting in a pH level that's beneficial for most plants.

This organic blend provides balanced nutrition for the soil — a recipe to help your garden thrive throughout the entire growing season.

For more information on "How to: with Compost," send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to Peat Moss, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN, 55438. You can also visit their Web site at www.peatmoss.com or e-mail them at csdma@peatmoss.com.



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