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## Planning key to a successful perennial garden: experts

By **LISA CARTWRIGHT**

*The Champion*

Experts and gardeners agree — the key to a beautiful perennial garden is in the planning.

"Try planning it," said Gay Bryant, a member secretary and director for the Milton Horticultural Society. "It would have been better if I did."

Ms Bryant and her husband Jim began planting their garden 13 years ago at their Fourth Line home.

She said she did it on a shoe-string budget, taking plants from other people's gardens and placing them wherever she felt was best.

The following year she had to dig up most of the plants because she had put them in the wrong spot or they had grown bigger than expected, she said.

Today, the couple's gardens are beautiful with flowers and trees bursting with colour and texture.

But the work is never finished. A garden is never complete, said Mary-Deane Crawford, owner of Crawford's Country Gardens in Milton. It's an ongoing project.

The first thing that people have to do is to decide the theme of the garden.

In a mono-chromatic garden, gardeners pick one colour and plant flowers that bloom in light and dark shades of it.

With an analogous garden, people pick three colours that sit side-by-side on the colour wheel. Examples of an analogous garden are flowers that are violet, blue and

• see **THOUSANDS** on page 5



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Gay Bryant has been working on the gardens of her Fourth Line home for the last 13 years, adding something new each year. Here, she sits among her peonies that are bursting with blooms.

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A Culligan water conditioner makes a big difference in nearly every room of the house. The use of softened water will extend the life of all water-using appliances - dishwasher, kettle, coffeemaker, hot water heater, and washing machine. In the laundry, clothes will get cleaner and brighter, and last longer. You will **SAVE MONEY** on all soaps, detergents, shampoo toothpaste, and cleaning products - use up to 75% less. Softened water allows your water heater to operate more efficiently, and may lower your water heating bill by up to 29%. Pipes will no longer clog up with the accumulation of rock-like hard water scale. Conditioned water will benefit your bathroom by preventing lime

build-up, making fixtures easier to clean and eliminating rust stains. Itchy skin problems will also be reduced, and there will be no more ring around the tub to scrub!

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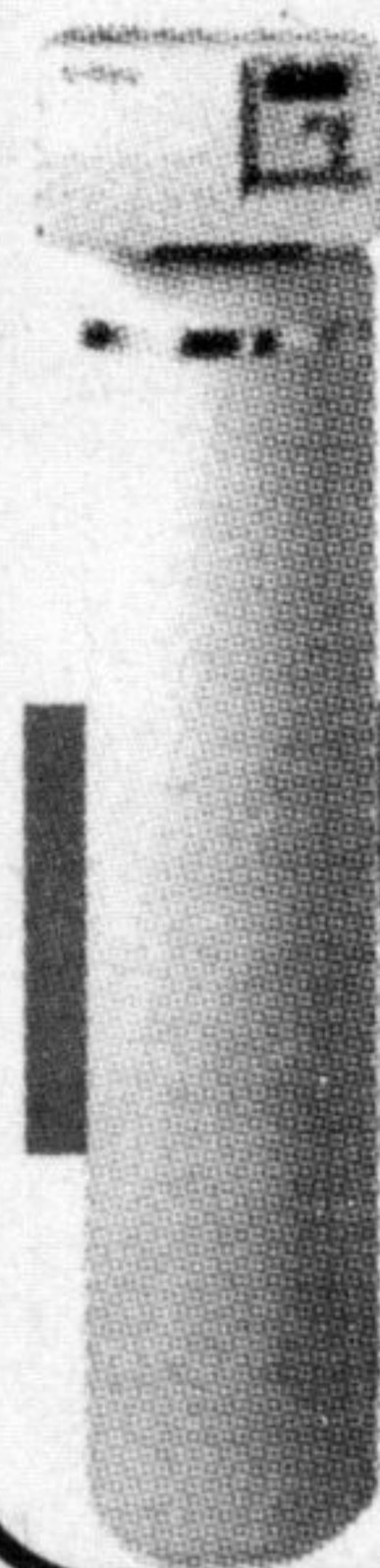
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## Five water-saving tips you can practice anywhere

1. Avoid leaving the tap running unnecessarily, especially while brushing teeth or washing the dishes.

2. Keep a covered container of water in the fridge for drinking water (so you don't have to run the tap waiting for the water to chill).

3. Put a little food colouring in your toilet tank and see if, without flushing, the colour begins to appear in the bowl - if so, you have

a leak which should be fixed.

4. Put a brick or a small plastic container filled with water in the tank of your toilet; your toilet will require less water to flush each time.

5. Install water-conserving shower and faucet heads which are available at most hardware stores.