

Gardening with Youth

at

INDIANA UNIVERSITY





Young gardeners are planning people

The children's garden

is a leisure science program for the community's youth and a leadership-training field laboratory for the Botany Department of Indiana University. The garden is jointly sponsored by the city Department of Parks and Recreation, Indiana University, and the Bloomington Garden Club. A community garden for boys and girls is a community affair. Its growth and permanency is measured by the strength of its foundation timber. Bloomington's garden, called Hilltop, is now a legacy inherited by each succeeding generation of young people. Every boy and girl in the community is given a chance to better understand the living world around him by actively working with it during his leisure.

In the Fall, when the big iron gate is locked, Bloomington youths leave the garden with the fruit of their own work:

New Friends

New Skills of the Soil

Love of Living Things

Food and Beauty for the Family

A Healthy Mind and Body

Seasonal Patterns

IN THE SPRING

Gardentime is announced throughout the schools in the late winter. Printed announcements, *The Junior Gardener*, are mailed to parents of pupils 9-12 years of age. Parents are requested to fill out the enclosed registration cards. The young gardeners then return these cards with the garden fee to their classroom teachers.

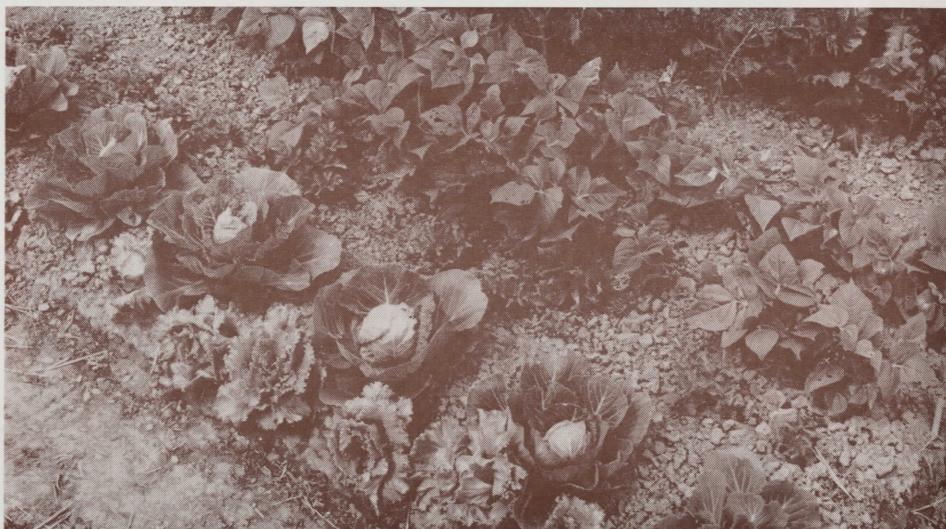
*Leaders learn
as they
work*



The gardening season begins with three indoor meetings, which are held on Saturday mornings at the Community Center in Bloomington. Classes meet in two sections: Section One meets from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. and Section Two meets from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. The first few gardening lessons are simple but they soon become more advanced as gardeners take up work with the problems of crop selection, seeds, soil, tools, and gardencraft. A vegetable garden plan, prepared by the staff, is completed by the newcomer. Advanced gardeners design their own vegetable garden plans.

Learning to garden outdoors at Hilltop is a big step for the young beginner. Beginners therefore are assigned to work with partners. Only those gardeners who have successfully completed two years of

The paper plan becomes a real garden



gardening are assigned individual plots. Group instruction continues in the Council Ring followed by gardencraft lessons in the "demonstration plots" within the huge checkerboard system of plot-layout. Gardening lessons pertain to soil management, interpreting a garden plan drawn on paper, methods of sowing seeds, etc. By the end of the spring lessons the vegetable garden is completely planted.

IN THE SUMMER

For The Beginning Gardeners . . .

On Tuesday and Saturday Mornings: Work in the vegetable garden becomes a personal affair. Good housekeeping has its rewards—a beautiful garden and bountiful harvests for the family and neighbors.

On Thursday Mornings: Through the Hilltop Honors program, gardeners broaden their knowledge of natural science and garden-craft. Garden lessons are related to garden equipment, weed control, wildlife communities in fields and woods, conservation practices, and garden ornamentals and their culture. Gardeners also prepare for achievement tests in all of these study areas.

For The Advanced Gardeners . . .

On Tuesday Mornings: Through the Hilltop Honors program, gardeners increase their proficiency in gardencraft and fundamental horticultural knowledge.

The field garden plan provides directions for teachers and gardeners

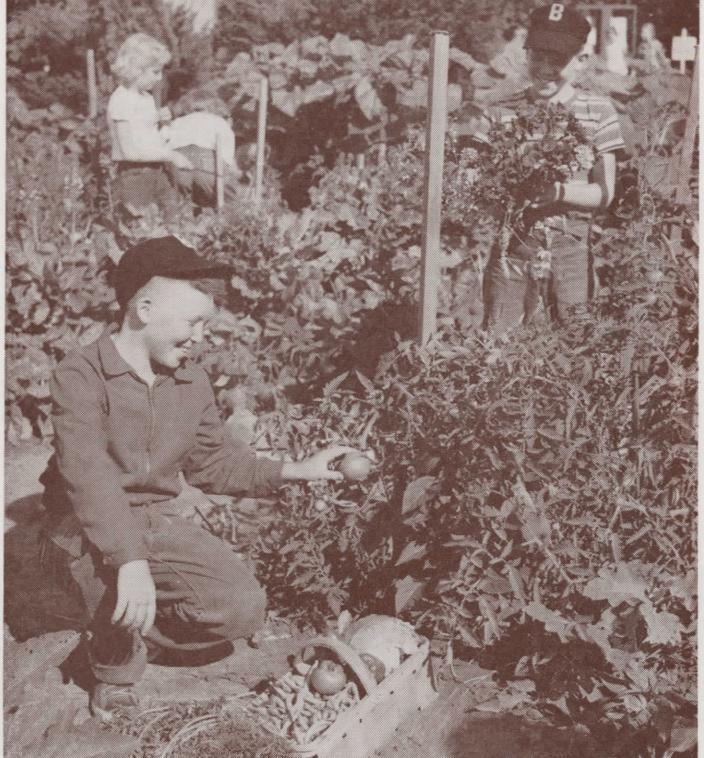


On Thursday Mornings: Field excursions to nearby parks and farms, market and home gardens, caves and fossil fields help widen the gardener's knowledge of horticulture and environment.

On Saturday Mornings: Vegetable gardens are cared for and crops are harvested.

IN THE FALL

The gardening season ends in early August. The vegetable garden is cleaned, disked, and planted in winter rye. A good stand of rye grass is established before winter, safely anchoring the top soil for next spring's work. In November, the Achievement Day party, sponsored annually by the Bloomington Garden Club, terminates the year's work at Hilltop.



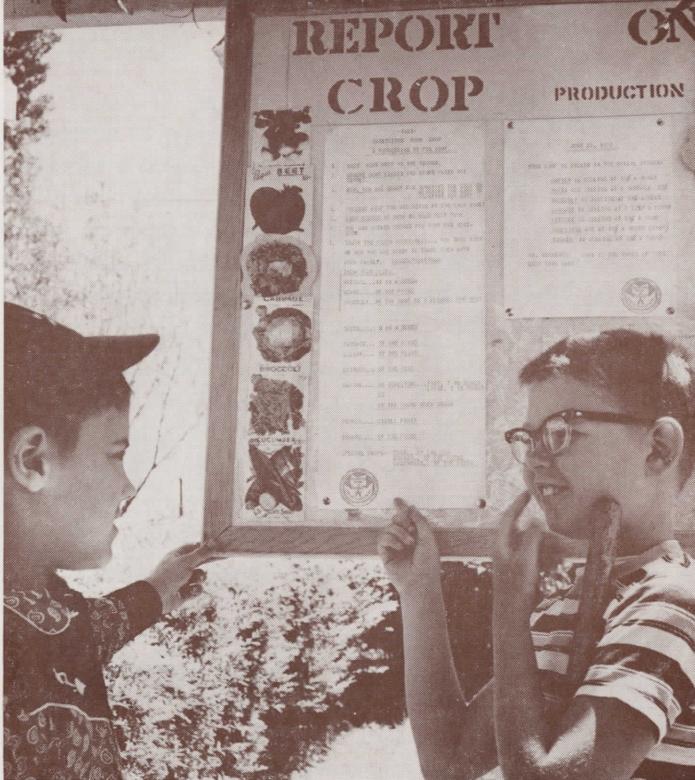
Rich harvests are products of knowledge put to work

The Physical Plant

Hilltop, a beautiful one-acre garden enclosed by an eight-foot high hurricane fence, is located in the Botany Experimental Gardens, just at the edge of Bloomington. Boys and girls come on foot, on bicycles, in the family car, or ride the garden-school bus.

The garden, once a field of alfalfa, today is completely landscaped through the work of student projects. It consists of wide lawns, grass walks, labeled trees and shrubs, and numerous special gardens: rose, herb, mixed flower border, alpine, fruit, and aquatic. The vegetable garden, laid out like a giant checkerboard, is dissected by a four-foot-wide grass walk. Inside this garden, there are more than one hundred 10' x 10' garden plots, besides the areas designated for special crops like corn and cucurbits.

The newly-constructed gardenhouse is equipped with a classroom, containing a science library and laboratory; an office; and a well-equipped toolroom. A porch provides additional working space while a metal shed houses the larger equipment. The small greenhouse is



All crops must be processed and recorded

used to prepare young plants for the garden. The Council Ring, in the rear, serves as an outdoor assembly area.

In early spring and fall Hilltop's lawns and structures are maintained by a part-time gardener. Otherwise, the care of the gardens rests entirely on the creative leadership of the summer staff and the honor work of the young gardeners.

Training Leaders

Hilltop is actually a science laboratory founded on the spirit of research. The studies conducted at Hilltop have contributed immeasurably to its growth and success. Research in elementary science and teacher education conducted by students, the staff, and visiting scholars has consistently influenced the development of the science program. The evaluations of childrens' attitudes, interests, and appreciations that have developed while they were learning to garden have often re-shaped the basic principles underlying Hilltop's science teaching methods. Continued horticultural studies of crop selection and soil management have improved horticultural practices and understandings.

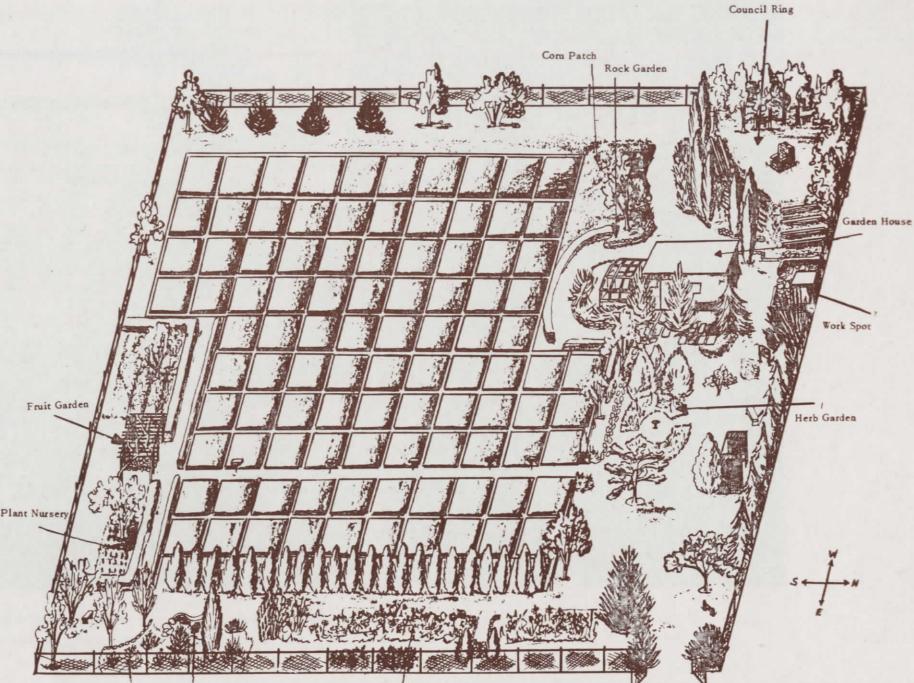
Gardening with youth is an art which very few ever develop to its fullest potential. In the beginning, one needs to possess a fair command of gardencraft and horticultural knowledge coupled with a real desire to share gardening with youth. Boys and girls possess minds keenly receptive to new skills, knowledges, and ideals. Thus it is necessary for the student teachers to achieve complete rapport with each young gardener to assure the fullest enjoyment of gardening for every boy and girl.

Young people prefer play to work. The capable student teacher must show the boys and girls that bumper crops and beautiful gardens are products of following-through the job begun in early spring. This wisdom, once discovered, strengthens many other sound qualities of good citizenship.

While the concept of children's gardens has for centuries been an integral part of the school science curricula in Europe, the idea is relatively new here in America. The demand for teachers and leaders for children's garden programs is growing at a tremendous rate. Hilltop actually performs a dual function of providing children with the many benefits to be derived from a garden program, and acting as a training ground for scores of new teachers and leaders.

The student teachers learn by active participation with the community's youth and by assuming major administrative responsibilities within the garden program. Hilltop has long pioneered in the training of leaders for children's garden programs. These young men and women who leave the campus year after year are prepared to share their Bloomington experiences with other communities.

Growing things are everywhere



What was once an alfalfa field is now a beautifully landscaped garden

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

In the late winter a research seminar is held to orient the student teacher to the garden concept as it applies to a community's education-recreation program. Outside reading, illustrated talks, and thoughtful discussions of both European and American youth gardening programs provide a background for an understanding of the evolution of thought on the role of the school garden in science education. Some of the other topics considered are: the organization and administration of gardening programs; the benefits to the community and the child; public relations; and the effectiveness of the instruction. The seminar concludes with discussions on the art of teaching gardening to young people with special consideration to the teaching methods that have proven to be the most effective at Hilltop.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Student teachers work in pairs and are responsible for classes of 15-20 young gardeners. Before the indoor classes begin, many student teachers, with a lively interest in the job at hand, make colorful visual aids to help themselves in their teaching duties.

Demonstration Classes are conducted by the director of the Workshop at Assembly during the early part of the year, when classes are held indoors. Later, when at Hilltop, these classes are held in the Council Ring. The science lessons are presented simply and colorfully,



Leaders ready to share Bloomington's pattern with other communities

the content pared to the basic understandings planned for that day. A conscientious teacher may easily adjust the content of these lessons to an individual group's needs and mental abilities.

Demonstration Plots located in the vegetable garden's checkerboard system serve a dual role:

- (1) Each plot is a training ground for the student teacher.
- (2) Each plot also serves as a demonstration plot where the teacher's work is always on display for pupils and garden visitors.

Weekly Conferences with the Workshop staff help the teachers to better understand the administrative responsibilities assigned to them. During these conferences the completed lessons are reviewed and evaluated. Here, too, new ideas, born out of actual participation with the young gardeners, are discussed. Over the years many of these ideas have been adopted with great success.

The Staff

The responsibility for the complete administration, including public relations and personnel management, and for the continued growth of the Junior Garden Workshop is vested in the director who works closely with the chairman of the Botany Department, the

director of the city Department of Parks and Recreation, and the chairman of the Junior Gardens Committee of the Bloomington Garden Club.

IN THE SPRING

The staff consists of paid and volunteer workers:

Paid Leadership . . .

*Two graduate students are assigned to the University horticulture course which is taught in the spring semester. They are trained in-service to assist in teaching and administrating the course program which includes the Junior Garden Workshop.

* A part-time gardener maintains the landscape units through the working seasons.

* Paid by the University



Some plants are given a head start in the greenhouse

*A part-time administrative assistant supervises the details concerned with leadership pre-service and in-service training periods, school registration, and general administrative work.

†The summer supervisor, who is a qualified teacher, assists in the administration of the early indoor and the subsequent Hilltop activities—a vital link in the transition from the spring program into summer gardening.

Volunteer Leadership . . .

The Junior Board, embodying the basic ideals of Hilltop, is composed of outstanding Hilltop veterans selected for their leadership qualities and gardening knowledge. Board members are appointed to two-year terms of office and are trained in-service to teach and be responsible for administrative work. The officers of the Board are elected at the closing of the Workshop in November. Their knowledge of horticulture and the working details of the Workshop has made their assistance invaluable to the student teachers.

The Volunteer Leaders Corps is composed of adults: friends of the garden, parents, and members of the Bloomington Garden Club. They teach in the garden plots, in the special gardens of their choice, and assist with the clerical work.

The Garden Advisory Council is an advisory body composed of distinguished civic leaders. They have served with distinction and devotion.

* Paid by the University

† Paid by the city of Bloomington

Hilltop's facilities include a library and a laboratory



*Hilltop's
birthday
cake*



IN THE SUMMER

The leadership training laboratory closes with the termination of the official course work in late May. However, some of the student teachers do continue their in-service training—for which they are compensated. The director of the Workshop is relieved of the major responsibilities of active administration and instruction when the summer supervisor takes charge. At this point the work is divided evenly between the members of the paid staff in the following manner:

Paid Leadership . . .

†A part-time gardener continues to maintain the landscape units.

†A qualified elementary or junior high school teacher is responsible for crop production and supervision of the physical plant.

†A qualified high school teacher of biology is in charge of the nature education program, field excursions, and development of achievement tests for the Hilltop Honors program.

†A qualified elementary teacher or a student teacher from the spring program assists with the nature education program. This individual is also responsible for developing the garden journal, *Gardening at Hilltop*.

†A student teacher from the spring program assists the crop production manager. The person assuming this position is responsible for the Honors Work in the special gardens, and for the records of attendance and crop production.

Volunteer Leadership . . .

The Junior Board members are charged with definite responsibilities, such as: supervision of the science library and laboratory, as

† Paid by the city of Bloomington

well as the garden office; supervision and maintenance of the Tool Rooms and the greenhouse; maintenance of records for attendance, crop production, guest lists, and honor work.

The Volunteer Leaders Corps is vested with important responsibilities during the summer months, such as: assisting the Junior Board members with crop harvests at which time the beginning gardeners are introduced to proper harvesting and processing methods; serving as teachers in the garden and in the field; and providing both transportation and leadership for the field excursions.

The Achievement Day Party

The Junior Garden Workshop closes officially with the Achievement Day Party held in November. This annual event, eagerly awaited by the young people, is sponsored by the Bloomington Garden Club in honor of the gardeners and their teachers. The event is held in one of the more centrally located schools.

The Saturday afternoon program is planned and executed by the Workshop's staff, who are ably assisted by the student teachers and the Junior Garden Committee of the Bloomington Garden Club. The awards are few and simple. They consist of specially designed certificates, personally signed by the sponsors of the Workshop; honor ribbons; silver cups; community plaques; community gold keys; scout badges; garden spade award; natural history booklets; nature magazine subscriptions, etc. Certificates are awarded to student teachers and the Volunteer Leaders Corps.

The program consists of games, singing, and refreshments, with the spotlight on the Workshop's birthday cake, which is lighted by the "Gardener of the Year" winner.

Annual Report

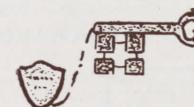
The director concludes the year's work with an annual report. This report includes an accounting of the crop production, its yield and quality; the scope of the instruction and the achievements of the young people; public relations on local, state, and national levels; gifts to the garden; growth of the physical plant; and brief notes on current research studies.

Hilltop Honors

Hilltop's Honor Plan fits every job one does in the big garden. The plan provides a chance for every gardener to learn more about gardening and about the world around him. When the boys and girls work well they are rewarded in special ways.

HIGHEST DISTINCTION

COMMUNITY KEY



The Mayor's Gold Key:
For outstanding citizenship
Eligibility:
Veteran of three years at Hilltop
Holder of several Hilltop Honor Achievements
Junior Board Membership

HONOR ACHIEVEMENTS

JUNIOR BOARD



Two-Year term of office:
In-service training to teach and administrate at Hilltop
Preparation for Junior Board Merit Exam
On election—awarded garden hat with Hilltop's insignia
On retiring—awarded inscribed desk pen set
Eligibility:
Veteran of four years at Hilltop
Holder of at least one Honor Achievement
Winner of Hilltop's senior rank (J.B. apprenticeship for one year)

DIRECTOR'S AWARD



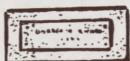
Year's subscription to *Junior Natural History* magazine:
For loyalty and devotion to Hilltop
Eligibility:
Veteran of two years at Hilltop

EXCELLENCY IN HORTICULTURE



Inscribed spade:
For excellency in scientific horticulture
Eligibility:
Veteran of two years at Hilltop
Holder of Red and Blue Ribbon Awards
Completed work for Gold Ribbon Award

GARDENER OF THE YEAR



Inscribed plaque:
For all-around gardener-citizen
Eligibility:
Open to all gardeners

GARDEN CRAFTSMANSHIP



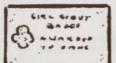
Inscribed silver trophy:
For good housekeeping in vegetable
garden
Eligibility:
A beginning gardener

NATURE STUDY AWARD:



Natural history booklets:
For keen interest in nature study
Eligibility:
Open to all gardeners

GIRL SCOUT BADGE



Garden Flower or Home Gardener
badge:
For fulfilling Girl Scout badge re-
quirements
Eligibility:
Garden Flower—Gold Ribbon
winner
Home Gardener—Blue Ribbon
winner

THE ROBERT E. ELLIS PRIZE



Small flowering tree for beautification
of school grounds:
For school with the largest regis-
tration of pupils completing a
full gardening season
Eligibility:
All community grade schools

STUDENT TEACHER AWARD



Special certificate:
For successful completion of student
teacher requirements
Eligibility:
University student teachers enrolled
in horticulture and school garden
management course

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Special certificate:
For meritorious service
Eligibility:
Open to adults of community

VOLUNTEER LEADERS CORPS AWARD

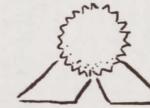


Special certificate:
For successful completion of volun-
teer service requirements
Eligibility:
Membership in Corps with special
administration assignment

CERTIFICATE WITH HONOR RIBBONS

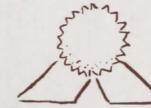
Veteran Gardner

Gold Ribbon with Gold Seal



Past Honors:
Red and Blue Ribbons
Garden Service:
Unlimited hours
Custodian of an Ornamental Gar-
den; herb, aquatic, rose, alpine,
flower, or fruit
Garden Knowledge:
Completion of a *Gardening at Hill-
top* journal which has received
the rating of excellent.
Completion of a reading list and
two projects (a nature collection
and an experiment in the garden
or laboratory).

Blue Ribbon with Gold Seal



Past Honors:
Red Ribbon
Garden Service:
Five hours
Garden Knowledge:
Cultivated garden flowers—their
identification and culture—know
at least 25
Completion of a science project
Garden Skills:
A merit garden—winner of blue
stars

CERTIFICATE WITH SEALS ONLY

Veteran Gardner

Mixed Seal



Gardening for three or four years
without enrolling for Hilltop
Honors

Blue Seal



Gardening for two years without
enrolling for Hilltop Honors

Beginning Gardner

Gold Seal



Gardening for one entire season—
spring and summer

Red Seal



Gardening for one-half season—
spring or summer

Beginning Gardner

Red Ribbon with Gold Seal



Garden Service:
Three hours
Garden Knowledge:
Garden tools, their names and uses
—know at least five
Weeds—knowledge of how they
grow and reproduce, and how
man controls them—know at
least five
Garden Skills:
Full season of gardening

A Full Year at Hilltop*

IN THE SPRING

March: Week 2 Registration in the schools for the newcomers and veteran gardeners (a veteran is a gardener with one or more years at Hilltop completed)

Newcomers (and veterans who are eligible for the Blue Ribbon Award) Veterans (who are eligible for the Gold Ribbon Award)

March: Week 3 Gardening indoors at the Community Center;	Lesson 1: Planning to Garden	March: Week 3 Jordan Hall, Indiana University greenhouse work shop	Lesson 1: Growing Plants from Seedlings.
Week 4	Lesson 2: The Living Garden	Week 4	Lesson 2: Growing Plants from Cuttings
April: Week 1	Lesson 3: Making a Vegetable Garden Plan	April: Week 1	Lesson 3: Constructing Miniature Gardens
Week 2 Holiday		Week 2 Holiday	
Week 3 Gardening outdoors at Hilltop	Lesson 4: Preparing the Seed Bed	Week 3 Gardening outdoors at Hilltop	Lesson 4: Preparing the Seed Bed
Week 4	Lesson 5: Planting the Vegetable Crop—First, the Young Sets	Week 4	Lesson 5: Planting the Vegetable Crop—First, the Young Sets
May: Week 1	Lesson 6: Planting Seeds in the Garden	May: Week 1	Lesson 6: Planting Seeds in the Garden
Week 2	Lesson 7: Thinning the Young Crop	Week 2	Lesson 7: Thinning the Young Crop
Week 3	Lesson 8: Cultivating and Weeding in the Garden	Week 3	Lesson 8: Cultivating and Weeding in the Garden
Week 4 Holiday		Week 4 Holiday	

IN THE SUMMER

TUESDAY

	Veterans eligible for Blue Ribbon Award	Veterans eligible for Gold Ribbon Award	Veterans eligible for Blue Ribbon Award
June: Week 2	Plot gardencraft and Hilltop Honors; gardencraft	Plot gardencraft and Hilltop Honors; gardencraft	Plot gardencraft and Hilltop Honors; gardencraft

SATURDAY

	All Veterans	All Veterans
	Beginners	Beginners

THURSDAY

	Plot gardencraft and Hilltop Honors; gardencraft	Plot gardencraft and Hilltop Honors; gardencraft
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	Plot gardenCraft and Hilltop Honors; gardenCraft	Plot gardenCraft and Hilltop Honors; gardenCraft
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Week 3	"	Hilltop Honors: custodianship of special garden—developing weekly work program for helpers from Red and Blue Ribbon Awards group seeking honor work.	Hilltop Honors: Natural History elementary lessons field studies in horticulture and natural history and water habitats. Staff, visiting teachers, and volunteers: flower arrangement, vegetative propagation techniques, etc.	Hilltop Honors: work in garden journal <i>Gardening at Hilltop</i> ; reading; work on projects (collections and experiments)	Hilltop Honors: Natural History its structure and living world
Week 4	"	"	"	"	"
Week 5	"	"	"	"	"
July: Week 1	"	"	"	"	"
Week 2	"	"	"	"	"
Week 3	"	"	"	"	"
Week 4	"	"	"	"	"
August: Week 1	"	"	"	"	"
Week 2	Special evenings for final harvest to be announced		Summary and Evaluation	Summary and Evaluation	Plot garden clear-ing of old plants of old plants

IN THE FALL

Nov.: Week 1

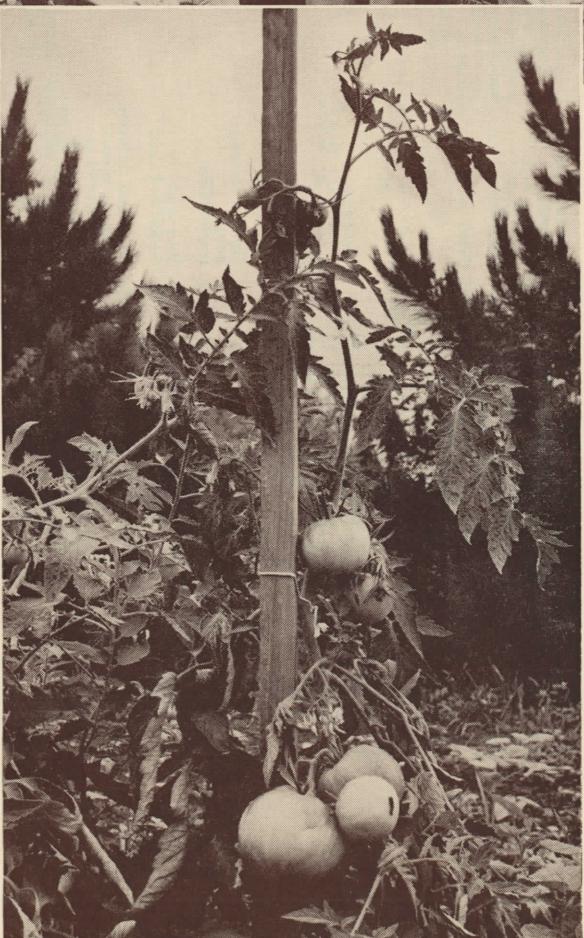
ACHIEVEMENT DAY PARTY:
Awards and funfest. Official closing of the Junior Garden Workshop.

* This calendar is a flexible one: Nature excursions vary with the teacher assigned to this work. The total program for a particular day shifts with inclement weather; In case of rain or snow, the activities, if planned for the out-of-doors, are conducted indoors at the Community Center where all indoor classes are held. On rainy days radio and television announcements provide the necessary directions for the gardens. On cold days, gardeners warm up at the fireplace in the Council Ring or find shelter in the gardenhouse. The summer program allows for vacation time. Midsummer Open House allows the parents and the general public to visit Hilltop.



*First the green leaves,
then the flowers, and
finally the fruit ripens*

*For Information
Write:*



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