

PHILADELPHIA (Philadelphia Co.) — Embark on a voyage into spring as six acres of breathtaking gardens lead the way through "Horizons For Discovery," March 8 to 15 at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

The captivating sound of dancing fountains bounces off terra cotta rooftops as visitors approach the Show's 7,000 square foot Central Feature display. The great American Southwest is alive with color and motion in this enchanting mosaic of regional cultures, adobe structures and a desert garden. Fragrant, wisteria-laden trellises canopy your entry. Giant Saguro cacti, tipping the scales at 700 pounds each, stand like sentinels at the garden gate and lead the way to the Santa Fe-style Town Square. Inside, open-air shops, a cantina and the 16-foot Bell Tower surround you and beckon visitors to discover the magic that appears on the horizon.

From California to Tennessee, Maine to Hawaii, the talents of 18 of the nation's top flower arrangers from the Garden Club of America pay tribute to their region's claim to fame in "America Discovered". From traditional to abstract, each massive arrangement captures the spirit of America in flower.

Discover the extraordinary horticultural talents of 51 major landscape exhibitors. The lifesize "snapshot" of a scene from The Secret Garden evokes a return to innocence with its oversize plantings of pink, blue, yellow and white perennials. The memories of childhood continue as you encounter a topiary Humpty Dumpty taking afternoon tea in a trehouse.

The dreamy quality of these

gardens takes a realistic turn as you explore the fascinating world of plant genetics. Navigate through the laboratory where the cutting edge of technological developments and the latest hybrids are unveiled. Witness the newest rage in garden design in the moonlit magic of Night Gardening; stroll through a popular contemporary garden, the Water Garden, and learn how to maximize your leisure time with lower maintenance plantings of ornamental grasses known as the "Hair of the Earth."

While the focus of today's garden is on newer and more unusual designs, you can also glimpse gardens of the past. Two classic gardens conjure up the sultry romance of The Great Gatsby era, and the great estates of the past with patterned beds and lush terraces. From New World to New Wave there is a gardening style, floral combination or botanical gem to excite one and all.

Windowboxes and bonsai, dinner table settings and miniature rooms, mammoth-sized flower arrangements and others the size of a thimble all vie for the coveted awards in this, the largest and most prestigious indoor flower show in the world. In addition to the 1,700 artistic and horticultural entries in the Competitive Class section, free lectures and demonstrations are presented by talented floral designers, photographers, and horticultural experts. For those who want to recreate some of the Show's garden scenes at home, 100 Marketplace vendors offer everything from potted plants and cut flowers to birdhouses and handmade baskets.

The Philadelphia Flower Show will be held at the Philadelphia



A landscaper prepares a mulch bed in preparation for the annual Philadelphia Flower Show, which begins Sunday.

Civic Center, 34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard, March 8 to 15, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays; 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Tickets are available at the door, \$10.50 for

adults; \$5.25 for children under 12. Group tickets are available for \$9.75 (Minimum of 10 if ordered through the mail). For additional Show, travel or accommodation

information, please call (215) 625-8253 or write to The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777.

4-H Trains Young Entrepreneurs

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Youngsters are developing business skills and discovering job opportunities in the 4-H Learn and Earn for Fun and Profit Program, the first of its kind in Pennsylvania.

"Knowing they can operate a small business does wonders for young people's self-esteem and gives them fresh ideas for finding jobs," says Laurie Sicko-Sandow,

4-H coordinator in Chester County. "This is especially important for youths in low-income, high-unemployment areas."

Since the program began in 1990, young people in 10 counties have tried many different business ventures, including selling container gardens, fishing lures and hoagies. In some cases, the young entrepreneurs allot a portion of their profits to club funds for trips and special occasions.

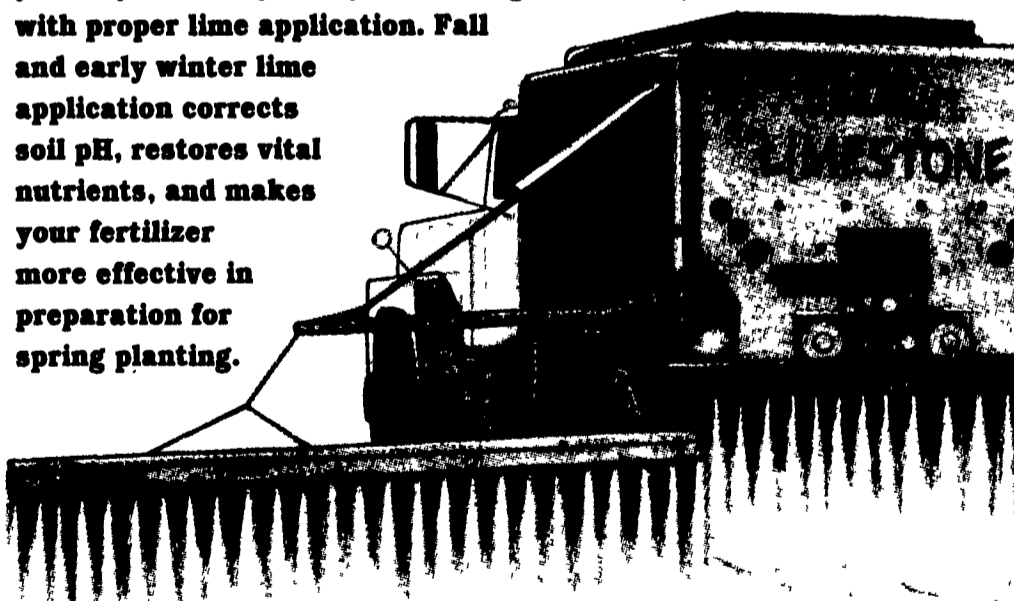
To find out more about Learn

and Earn for Fun and Profit, contact your nearest Penn State Cooperative Extension office, or contact Alan Snider, The Penn State 4-H Office, 417 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 863-2695.

Pennsylvania 4-H week takes place March 16 to 21 this year, celebrating nearly 80 years of programs that aid and educate youths. More than 150,000 young people in the state are involved in 4-H programs.

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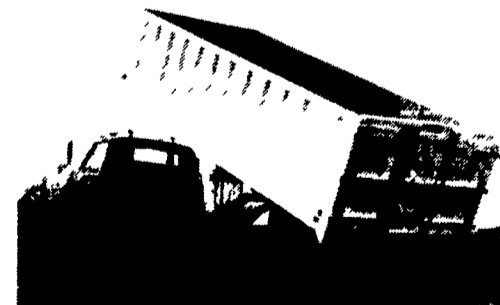
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