

Warm Weather Arrives, So Master Gardeners 'Turn Up' A New Idea Garden

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LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
 — As Poet Wendell Berry wrote, "The grower of trees, the gardener, the man born to farming, whose hands reach into the ground and sprout, to him the soil is a divine drug. He enters into death yearly, and comes back rejoicing. . . ."

Twelve Master Gardeners know what it is like to come back rejoicing — that is, the day the Idea Garden gets planted at the Farm and Home Center. On Wednesday, donning coveralls, garden gloves and sun hats, gardeners were busy turning up topsoil and lowering in flower seedlings, covering them over with moist earth and bark mulch.

"We were a little concerned after yesterday's rains," said Hans Lienhard, chairperson of the Idea Garden Committee. But the clouds cleared and the sun spilled out just in time as gardeners arrived at the Farm and Home Center early Wed-

nesday morning — Lienhard said as early as 6:30 a.m.

The good news was that the ground was already tilled and mulched beforehand. The mulch provides a good soil cover, retains moisture, improves soil condition, and keeps the weeds down. Lienhard said about two inches of the pine bark mulch covers the beds, planted with about 1,800 seedlings obtained from a local nursery.

The Idea Garden is funded by the Farm and Home Foundation.

Only annuals are used in the planting, a total of 39 flats with 48 plants per flat. Planted were begonias, dalias, ageratum, alyssum, dianthus, lobelia, marigolds (yellow, luca, and bicolor), petunias (white, lilac, orchid, and plum), Dusty Millers, salvia (red, white, and blue), snap dragons (red and yellow), and verbena (white and blue). Also planted were bright red geraniums.

At the planting of the idea garden, Tim Elkner, Lancaster Coun-



At the planting of the Idea Garden on Wednesday, new Lancaster horticulture agent Dr. Tim Elkner, third from left, with wife Kristi, greeted the Master Gardeners. In front, from left, Pat Snyder, Althea Harting, Nancy Dishors, and Deb Ressler. In back, Hans Lienhard, Kristi Elkner, Tim Elkner, Fred Walter, Vickie Schweltzer, and Harry Collins.

Photos by Andy Andrews

ty's new horticulture agent, spoke with the Master Gardeners. Elkner said he was looking forward to several days of orientation to the Lancaster program and his new job with Extension.



Harry Collins removes the seedlings prior to planting on Wednesday.



Fred Walter, in cap, turns up the mulch and topsoil to plant petunias at the Idea Garden.



Two inches of pine bark mulch were used to cover the flower beds at the Idea Garden.



Hans Lienhard, chairperson of Idea Garden Committee, reads a flat of petunias for the Idea Garden.



Pat Snyder, Master Gardener, helped at the annual planting of the Idea Garden on Wednesday at the Farm and Home Center.

Master Gardener Program Accepts Applications

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
 — Penn State Cooperative Extension is accepting applications for the 1995 Master Gardener Program.

This is a training program for volunteers designed to provide experience in the knowledge and skills of gardening for those who sign up. In exchange for 30 hours of indoor and outdoor instruction, candidates agree to complete 50 hours of volunteer service to Penn State Cooperative Extension during 1996.

Weekly classes will be held from Aug. 30 to early December. The program is being offered in Lancaster and Berks counties. There is a program fee of \$30 to cover costs of training manual and materials.

Applications are being accepted through June 2. For more information and an application form, contact the Lancaster County Extension Office at (717) 394-6851.

Region III PASA Meeting Set

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—A group is forming in the region comprised of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, York, Lancaster, and Lebanon counties to exchange ideas on sustainable food production techniques as an outgrowth of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA).

Farmers or people interested in sustainable agriculture from these areas are invited to attend the Region III meeting on May 8, from 7-9 p.m. at the York County 4-H Center at Bare.

This will be the second meeting

of the group, with the topic focusing on marketing your farm product. Larry Yeager, Penn State Extension agent, will lead the discussion.

Future meetings will include on-farm meetings and cover topics ranging from management intensive grazing to organic vegetable production.

The York County 4-H Center is located on Stover's Town Road off of Route 116 near Spring Grove. For further information please contact Lee Bentz at (717) 772-5204.