

# Kimberton 'Garden Of Eden'

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members can harvest as much as they like.

Members can make suggestions about what they want to see grown but the farmers make all final decisions about production. A volunteer "core group" of members and farmers makes decisions about share prices, farmer compensation, and distribution policies and organizes special events in the garden.

Some of the philosophies of the

Kimberton CSA, like most CSAs, can often go against the beliefs of more conventional vegetable production.

"The basic idea of the CSA," said Barbara, "is that we get away from the idea that the consumer is looking for the lowest price and the farmer's looking for the highest price. We try to sit down together and decide what's fair and what's going to be sustainable in the long run, because what members want are fresh vegetables picked the day

they get them. If we can't arrange ourselves so we can do this in the long run, they just won't have the vegetables available. If we can't make a living, then, the vegetables aren't here."

Growers, especially those looking to grow one type of vegetable at high production levels and sell it on the wholesale market, "tend to focus on the specific nutrient needs of each crop." But biodynamic farmers "try to look more at the

health of the whole system."

As a result, CSAs are labor intensive and demand a lot of time and management. Additional labor is provided by two or three full-time trainees plus any members who want to volunteer their time.

CSAs continue to grow. Lancaster County already has several. Bucks County and areas surrounding Philadelphia, including Ches-

ter and Berks, continue to see CSAs sprouting up — usually in areas where the modern way of thinking in terms of high production agriculture has been pushed to the wayside.

Last year, the Kimberton CSA was host to a composting field day late in September with the help of Cary Oshins of the Rodale Insti-

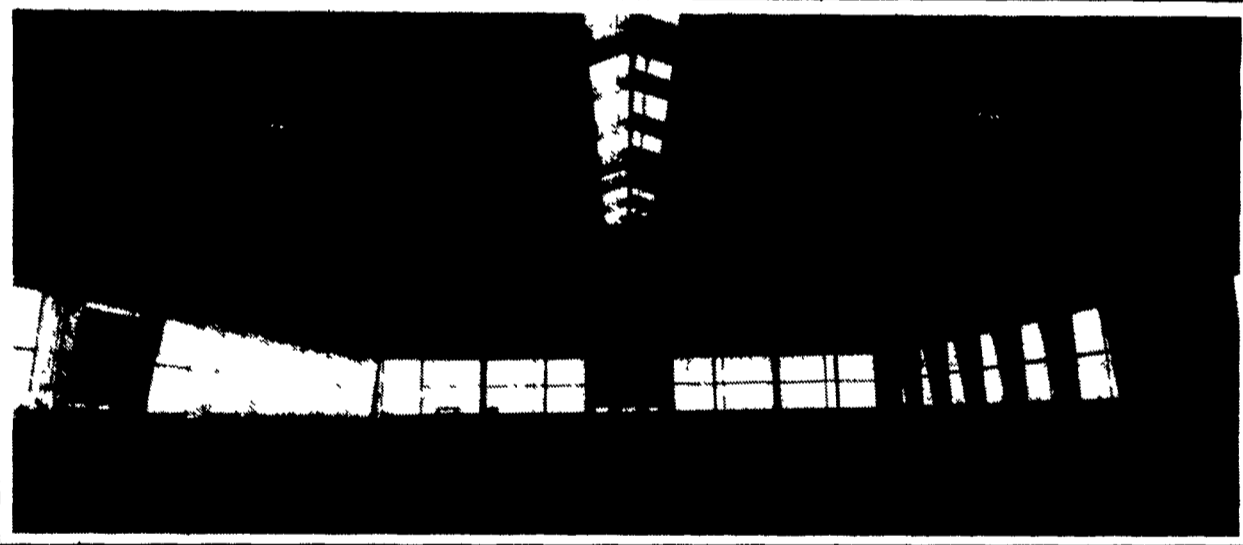
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"The Garden of Eden is our model," said Kerry Sullivan. "Members can simply wander in their garden — as much as they want to take it as their garden." Kerry inspects cucumbers inside the high tunnel.

Last year, the Kimberton CSA was host to a composting field day late in September with the help of Cary Oshins, left, of the Rodale Institute. At right is Kerry Sullivan.

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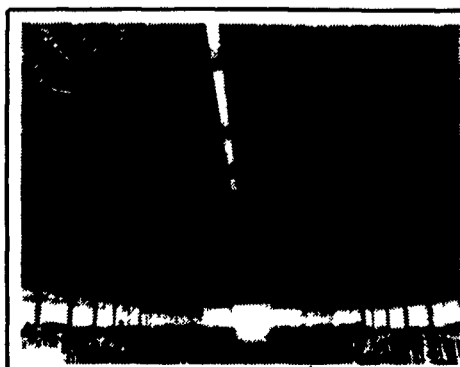
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