

Fun should be main crop in vegetable garden

A profit motive is out of place in a home vegetable garden. That cozy little plot of tomatoes, string beans or cauliflower ought to be counted on to yield food and enjoyment instead of some additional cash.

That's the attitude Michigan State University Cooperative Service horticulturist Gregory Patchan brings to the Farmington City Library, 23500 Liberty on Thursday. Beginning at 7:30 p.m., area gardeners can view slides and listen to his advice.

Some of that advice is based on his five years experience with the MSU cooperative service and his own success with his vegetable patch.

"I grew up in the city and I got interested in plants before I went to college," he recalled. "My interest grew as I became more involved with gardening."

Gardening should be fun, Patchan maintains, and he follows his own advice.

"I only grow things that I like to eat," he said. His 30-foot by 60-foot garden is planted with tomatoes, beans, carrots, lettuce, broccoli and brussels sprouts.

"DON'T GO RACING INTO gardening expecting to make money," he advised. "If you have that attitude, it'd be better if you went out and got a part-time job."

Some of the vegetables could probably be bought for less money from a farmer's market, according to Patchan.

After an initial investment of about \$25 or less in seed, plants and fertilizer, the owner of a 20-foot by 30-foot garden plot should be able to break even, if all goes well.

"That's why it should be a fun hobby. If you much rather be on a beach, you won't do the garden justice. It'll be drudgery," he said.

Patchan refuses to spend all of his free time tending to his own garden. "I don't have much free time. I don't have banker's hours. And there are other things that I like to do with my time in the summer."

Most of the fledgling gardeners who take up the hobby do so as a reaction against a complicated world.

"It's partly a back to nature reaction. It's a reaction against a plastic world. And it's an inexpensive family

hobby that's challenging," he explained.

"You can try to grow different things every year. It could be a simple garden, like two tomatoes outside the back door or an elaborate garden with different kinds of vegetables," he said.

FOR SUBDIVISION dwellers who are faced with fighting hard soil before planting their vegetables, Patchan suggests the lawn be stripped away first. A rented sod cutter is suitable for this task. After stripping away the sod, it can be given away or put onto a compost heap. Pest moss coated with manure should be mixed with the soil at least three inches below ground.

"Work it all in. You can use a rototiller or do it by hand depending on the size of the area. Don't leave it in clumps; but you don't have to pulverize the dirt either," he said.

After the soil is ready, plant small-er vegetables. A 20-foot by 30-foot plot will yield more string beans than water melons.

Tomatoes, string beans and cabbage remain the most popular vegetables among gardeners. After those three, the choices become widely diversified.

Garden pests should be taken care of as soon as they are noticed. Spraying before a bug is seen is unnecessary except in the case of radishes, turnips and rutabagas. Those plants are plagued by a root maggot that feeds on the roots. By the time the maggots are noticed, the plants are damaged.

Patchan suggests the chemical Spectracide for the pests.

ANOTHER PEST is the white grub which can be found beneath sod. Spray with Diazinon as soon as the bugs are noticed.

"Most bugs can be controlled if you treat them when you see them," he advised.

Maggots can often be the worst type of pest to control. They are a lower form of animal life, and are slow to respond to pesticides which are designed for insects.

Gardeners who have problem with their plot can call Patchan at the MSU Cooperative Service's Pontiac branch, 834-0887.

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Hunt is unchallenged; 3 vie for C'ville seat

Trustee Norman Hunt will be facing another Clarenceville School Board election unchallenged, but there are three contenders jousting for the two years remaining on Trustee Thomas Wilson's term.

Wilson, who has served 10 terms on the board, recently resigned in order to retire to Florida. The remainder of his term will be from July 1 through June 30, 1989.

Candidates for the seat are Barry Sherman, Frank Lozano and Donald Nicholson.

Hunt, the unchallenged incumbent, has served on the board for 12 years. He is the current board president, and served one other term in that capacity. He works for Micro Manufacturing Co. in Mt. Clemens. Hunt has also served on the Farmington area recreation commission.

"It would like to try to keep education at the highest level, find the answer to the fiscal problems of this and all districts, and have Clarenceville remain on a full day schedule," he says. Hunt, 58, lives at 2121 St. Francis, Farmington Hills.

Barry Sherman is better known as "officer" around Livonia. Sherman, 25, is a police officer for the Livonia Police Department youth bureau.

SHERMAN, A GRADUATE of Clarenceville High School, received an AA degree from Schoolcraft College and graduated from Madonna College with a BA. A member of the police force since 1972, he is president of the Livonia Police Officers' Benevolent Assoc. and is active in the police youth breakfast program. "I'm a graduate of Clarenceville and have worked with kids in the area. I'm aware of their needs and problems," Sherman says. He lives on Antigo in Livonia.

FRANK LOZANO is assistant principal at Maybury Elementary School in Detroit. He holds an MA from Marygrove College and the University of Michigan, and is a Ph.D. candidate at U-M. Lozano is a member of New Detroit, Inc.'s education committee, the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the organization of school administrators and supervisors, and the Clarenceville Theatre Parents organization.

"The main responsibility of any school board is to make sure that all

students of the district receive a quality education. My definition of quality education means that all students receive the best preparation possible for any job or career of their choice," Lozano says. He lives at 19982 Lathers, Livonia.

Don Nicholson, 37, works for Westinghouse Electric Corp. in Southfield as an order service supervisor. He has lived in Livonia for four years. Nicholson is co-chairman of the Heartstone Homeowners' Assoc.

He says that he has been going to Clarenceville board meetings for over a year.

"SCHOOLS ARE having trouble with the state and federal governments—they are too involved with schools and don't understand what local districts require. We need a return to basic education," Nicholson says. He lives at 2004 Sunbury.

The election for board trustees will be June 13.

Volunteers needed for blood drive

The Farmington St. Francis Knights of Columbus are seeking volunteers to donate blood at its annual blood drive to be April 27, from 1-7 p.m. in their hall at 21900 Middle Belt.

Those donating blood may credit it to their own blood bank for emergency needs in the future. The K of C chapter hopes to collect at least 100 pints of blood.

Farmington Observer

Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class Postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, form 3579) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 261-3900.

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