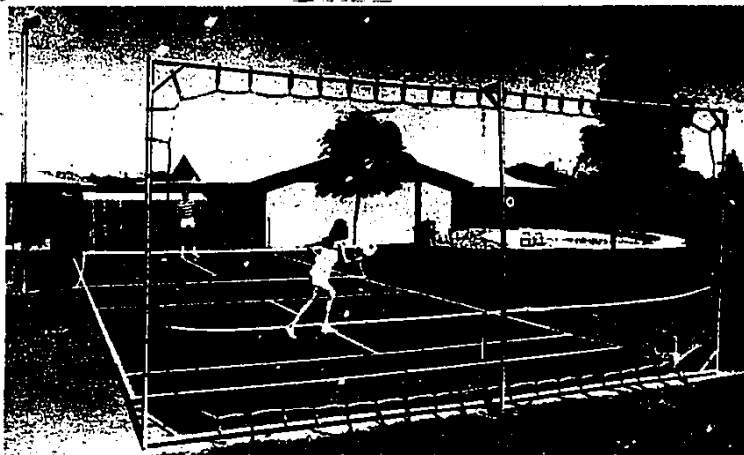


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**Sports Illustrated** June 8, 1978

... "Good news for the Backyard Athlete"

**Newsweek** July 17, 1978

... calls it a BACKYARD BONANZA

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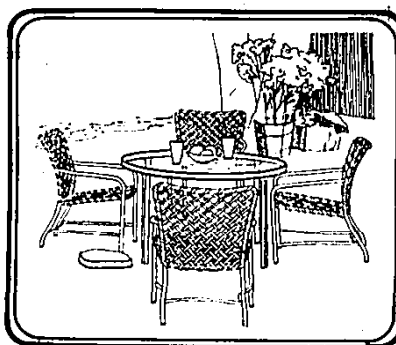
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# Seed swap

(Continued from page 25)

firm keeps in touch with some 500 growers all over the world. These garden buffs buy seed from the lists of offerings in the catalogue.

When the flowers come up, they collect some of the seeds and ship them back to Far North Gardens, getting reimbursed by money or in trade.

Then Far North cleans and packages and the cycle begins again.

That's a simplified description for a business that ranges its rare wares from *Acanthus mollis* (Bears Breeches) to *Zauschneria latifolia* (Humming Birds Trumpet).

But it seems to work well, Mrs. Smith said.

"We list nearly 2,000 different genres and species," she said, "and an amazing number of them grow well all over the world when given the right care."



THE PROCESS of seeding a wide market involves several careful processes and a few part-time helpers for Mrs. Smith.

"We have hundreds of collectors who grow plants for us and harvest the seed," she said. "When the seeds arrive we clean them if that's needed (sometimes bits of soil or other parts of the plant cling) and then they go into a plastic box with silica to dry."

The next step is to package the various varieties in large envelopes and then store them under refrigeration to keep well-preserved.

Then they are packaged in small, air-tight envelopes to be ready to ship out again. That step is largely the responsibility of Barbara Iavasile, who comes in during the mornings to package. Janet Czapski and Mrs. Smith's sister, Jo Ann Krusinski, help sort and file orders and type labels.

ROBERT GOPLERUD'S business started largely with primroses, and his mentor with that bloom was a woman named Florence Bellis, whose story appears at the beginning of the Far North catalogue.

She retreated from cares of the Great Depression era to a barn and apple orchard in Oregon, the story goes, and in that haven began to grow flowers, especially primroses that she grew from seeds ordered from England.



Janet Czapski checks orders that come to Far North Gardens. Some recent national recognition has meant some super-busy days for the order filler. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)