

## Far North Gardens

# Primrose path to rare wares

By MARGARET MILLER

If your passion is for growing and showing rare flowers — maybe the famed Edelweiss from the Alps — you're likely to order the seeds from a Livonia firm known as Far North Gardens.

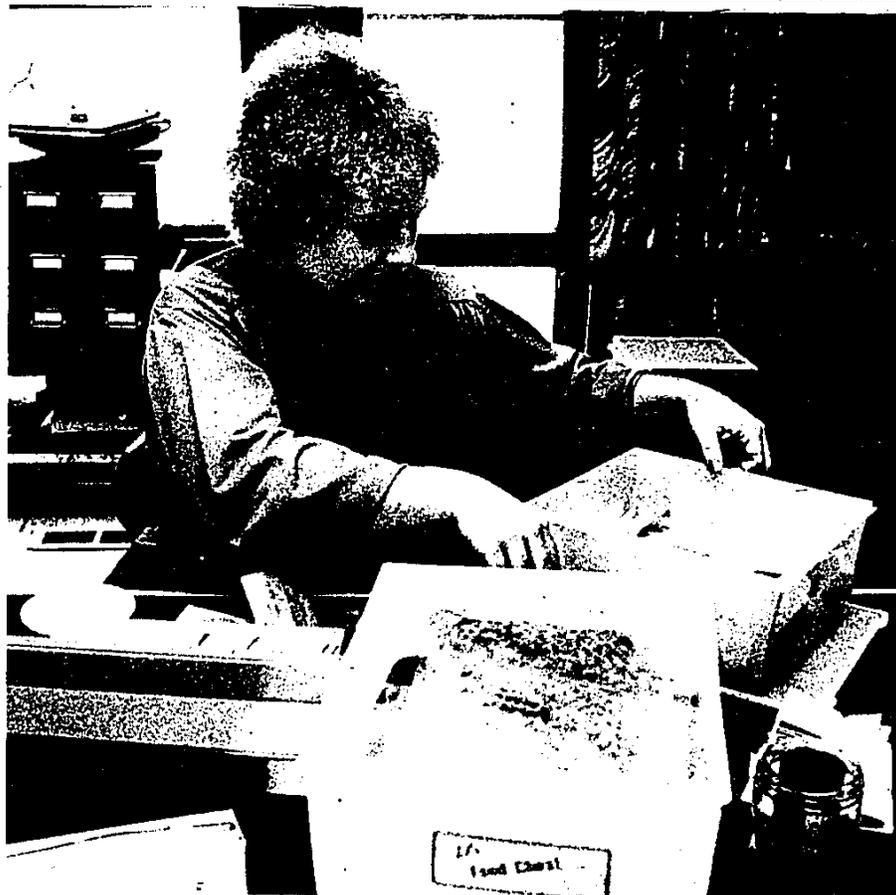
Of course, those seeds may have been grown in California or Holland or even Switzerland, but they are packaged and mailed out by the unusual firm that serves as clearing house for the growing of several thousand species of garden plants.

Far North Gardens, located at 15621 Auburndale, doesn't cater to walk-in business. But local gardeners, like those in far corners of the world, avail themselves of the opportunity to order all sorts of rare seeds listed in its 49-page catalogue.

Far North Gardens is a business that was organized about 15 years ago by Livonian Robert Goplerud. He now is seriously ill, but the work of collecting, sorting and selling seeds and shoots goes on under the direction of Karen Jean Smith, the young woman who he

first hired when she was a neighbor girl and who went on in botanical study to become his partner.

AS THE BUSINESS operates, Mrs. Smith explained, the (Continued from page 26)



Barbara Iavasile packages seeds for mail orders. Rare seeds are listed in Far North

Garden's 49-page catalogue. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)



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