

Cliffords enjoy doorstep garden

Home & Garden

"A small handful of seeds, a 4 by 6-foot plot of earth, Observer and Eccentric newspapers, sun, rain, bees and a bucket of organic dry cow manure."

Mrs. Clifford Smith of Plymouth described the ingredients of her garden, which has been an inspiration to her on these summer mornings.

The doorstep garden of Hubbard squash has reached unbelievable proportions.

Seeds were planted in June by placing them "down through two inches of

earth, then through a layer of newspapers into a sandy soil well-mixed with cow manure."

MRS. CLIFFORD said the plants grew easily through the newspapers then started runners.

"Jokingly we put a fishline out an upper floor window; up went the vine. Another clothesline was used to hold two other vines."

Three well-formed squash are now four to six feet above the ground. More vines are growing and the neighbor children call it Jack's beanstalk.

"EARLY MORNING we find the large leaves curved upward, waiting for the sun. At midday in 92-degree heat, the leaves form caps, down, limp to protect the delicate leaf veins."

"The orange trumpet-like flowers open for one day only and several sizes of bees work rapidly to collect their nectar. Sometimes several bees are in one flower as we watch them from our kitchen window. They seem to ignore us even when we stand outside to watch them at work. Evening coolness gives the vines renewed leaf shapes but the flowers are closed and wilting."

The Cliffords wonder if the squash will actually ripen and if the vine will support their weight without breaking. They have given the plump fruit added support, tying it up with a nylon net vegetable bag.

The Cliffords also wonder, "Will some beekeeper have squash honey?"



GIANT HUBBARD SQUASH vines have attained a height of more than eight feet in the doorstep garden of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Smith of Plymouth. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

Plant Center

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4.16	5.20	6.24	7.28	8.32	

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