

# covers globe

Her own touch developed a new species, the Barnhaven Primrose, that became the mainstay of Florence Bellis's business and later Robert Goplerud's. "Now we're the only distributor of Barnhaven Primroses," Mrs. Smith said, "but over the years we've also branched into the rare flowers."

She plants trays of primrose seeds each winter for sale as seedlings in this area. Another non-seed product of the Far North Gardens is the tuber, like the Double Bloodroot that grows in the fields behind the greenhouse on the Auburndale property.

"Those we dig up in the fall and then ship them out," Mrs. Smith said.

SOME RECENT national recognition of the small firm has meant super-busy days for this young manager who prepared for her role by completing a course of study at DuPage Horticultural School in Chicago.

Last year an article in Family Circle magazine offered a free package of Edelweiss seed and a catalogue for 50 cents. That brought in some 100,000 replies — and business was booming at Far North Gardens.

"It's been our biggest year," understated Mrs. Smith.

More recently, an article on Barnhaven Primroses in the January issue of the magazine Horticulture brought more attention — and more orders.

The mailing list is constantly being updated, Mrs. Smith said. So is the firm's catalogue, a volume made more interesting by use of lithographs from an old English book on gardening and by tiny line drawings Karen does. Mrs. Smith makes of the various flowers. It costs 75 cents and is available to those who send an order to Far North Gardens, 15621 Auburndale, Livonia, 48154.

It offers spring dreaming of faraway places, from a business close at hand.



Karen Smith plants primrose seeds. Far North Gardens acts as clearing house for the growing of several thousand species of garden plants. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

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