

Working on garden bounty stays all in the family

In a garden plot just 90 by 40 feet, Bruce Hoffman of Bloomfield Hills and his sons have grown so many varieties of vegetables that to list them all would fill a page.

The enthusiasm of these two young boys and their father was refreshing to see. When I arrived last fall for an interview, all three were in the garden busy with their tasks. When we talked about saving seeds, Bruce showed how seeds were being sown on broccoli stems and 9-year-old Josh was truly interested. Other seeds are also saved.

In addition to the usual crops of vegetables and fruits (strawberries and melons) are an asparagus bed, three fruit trees in the garden and a flower bed nearby. The produce is enjoyed all season by extending it with a spring and a late summer planting.

MOST UNUSUAL are white and purple eggplants, very large blue Hubbard squash and an artichoke that produced the first season!

Hoffman was told by a well-known garden adviser that the artichoke (thought as a plant, one small leaf, set out in June) would probably not produce the first year. If at all. They enjoyed seven of them and left three more on the bush.

After the plant died it was cut back, then heavily protected with six to eight inches of mulch and dirt. This year they expect shoots to develop so more plants will form.

Most crops are grown from seed, some begun indoors in a window with a western exposure for adequate light.

Although Hoffman has been gardening for some time, he started this garden 11 years ago and found as the years passed that things were growing smaller.



Gardeners' book nook

Marty Fidylo

About five years ago he began using organic products and compost, with much success. Everything is returned to the earth; crops rottilled, leaves composted and grass cuttings used all summer as mulch.

I RETURNED home with a large portion of a Hubbard and some white "Cream of the Crop" acorn squash.

The skin of this was so tender I ate it too. The vegetables cooked to perfection in the microwave. The leaf lettuce was so good it was served with just a hint of dressing, nothing more.

The boys love gardening and think the underground plants are the most fun. It's like fishing. You don't know what you've got until you pick it out of the ground.

Not to be left out, Shelly Hoffman helps with the harvest and freezes much of the surplus. During the season all the vegetables used by this family are homegrown, and enjoyed by all of them.

KEN MILLER Horticultural Consultants, along with Borden, English, Gardens and Peppergrove Perennials, are conducting another exciting, popular seminar Friday, Saturday, Feb. 28-29, at Oakland University in Rochester.

Choose from more than 24 topics for creating your own personal garden. Attend one or both days. Group rates of eight or more are available. Don't be left out! To register, call 1-800-827-9500.

Plan now to attend the Home & Garden Show at Cobo Hall, March 14-16. My friends Liz and Jeff Ball, the "Today" show garden experts, will answer your questions and present workshops on "How to Have a Perfect Lawn."

Their new book, "Yardening" (MacMillan), will also help. I will review it in the Feb. 27 column.

Marty Fidylo is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham.

Auction, preview scheduled

Frank H. Hoon Gallery Inc. of Bloomfield Hills will conduct an auction 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21. The auction will feature furniture, paintings, carpets, silver, crystal, china, jewelry and decorative items for the home from numerous estates.

and consignors. A two-day preview will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Feb. 19-20. A free appraisal day is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call 352-1500.

Make your own paper

The Palm Creek Center for the Arts offers a one-session adult paper-making workshop 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. Participants will learn how to form sheets of paper suitable for stationery, gift wrap and even frameable art. Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 3. For more information, call the PCCA, 651-4110.

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BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Enjoy extravagant views of exclusive Lower Long Lake from both outside and inside of this serene and private home. 140' lake frontage, 3 bedrooms. Huge lake room. Loaded with elegance, charm and comfort. A must see! Unparalleled investment opportunity. Only \$899,000. BL-01

COMMERCE TWP. - 1988-built, fabulous lakefront contemporary on Bass Lake. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Walkout basement. Gorgeous kitchen. Skylights, cathedral ceilings, balcony, garage and more, more. More. Enchanting. Must see. \$339,000 CO-01

WIXOM - Just Listed! Wonderful 5 bedroom, 3 bath multi-level on Loon Lake. This home is made for family and entertaining! Features of this 4,500 sq. ft. home are 2 fireplaces, wet bar, sprinkler system, private master suite and much more. \$224,900 WI-01

BEST BUYS OAKLAND COUNTY

BERKLEY - Just Listed! Charming bungalow featuring 3 bedrooms, master bedroom has fireplace, kitchen appliances, mint basement, detached 2 car garage, lovely lot. \$82,900 BK-01

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Exceptional colonial with first floor master suite and 4 bedrooms upstairs. 3 1/2 baths, formal dining room, fireplace in family room, large lot. \$319,000 BL-02

FARMINGTON - Prime Location for great starter home! Features include 2 bedrooms, finished basement, 1 1/2 car detached garage. Only \$69,900 FM-01

FARMINGTON HILLS - Lavish 5,000 sq. ft. brick Tudor. Prime area. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, dream basement, vast family room. Worth every penny of its price. Top of the line home. \$389,000 FH-02

FARMINGTON HILLS - 1989-built dream colonial. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, dream finished basement with 5th bedroom, gourmet 26 x 21 kitchen, central air, fireplace. Loaded from top to basement. \$259,900 FH-01

FARMINGTON HILLS - Stunning 1985-built custom colonial. Prime location. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, first floor laundry, basement, large garage, large lot. 23x16 country kitchen, dock and much more. Loaded with extras. Must see. \$249,900 FH-03

LATHRUP VILLAGE - Just Listed! Sharp 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath brick colonial in desirable area features fireplace in family room, central air, basement and 2 1/2 attached garage. Only \$124,900 LV-01

NOVI - Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath bi-level on Village Oaks Lake. Features include prime location, fireplace in family room, central air, sprinkler system, decks overlooking lake. Must see! Only \$152,000. NO-01

ROCHESTER HILLS - Mint 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial with fireplace in family room, central air, sprinkler system, basement. 2 1/2 attached garage, much more! \$129,900 RH-01

ROCHESTER HILLS - Sharp 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath ranch with fireplace in family room, central air, basement. 2 1/2 car garage. \$123,900 RH-02

SOUTHFIELD - Handsome 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath executive colonial. Mint condition. Prime location. Extra spacious master suite. Huge kitchen, basement, large garage, central air, fireplace. Loaded with extras. Must see. \$145,900 SF-01

SOUTHFIELD - A real beauty. Great location 3 bedroom, 2 bath contemporary brick ranch. Lovely kitchen. Family room has cathedral ceiling. Mint, mint condition. Central air, fireplace. Loaded. \$127,900 SF-02

SOUTHFIELD - Stunning brick ranch. Dream finished basement. Dream kitchen and family room. 2 car garage. Incomparable. Hurry to this home. \$86,900 SF-04

SOUTHFIELD - Exceptional value! Handyman's dream 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Gorgeous finished basement. Huge park-like lot. 2 plus car garage. Central air, fireplace. A bargain at \$98,500 SF-05

SOUTHFIELD - Handsome, large family colonial. Great neighborhood. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, finished basement. 2 car garage. \$94,900 SF-05



SOUTHFIELD - Just Listed! Sharp 4 bedroom, 3 bath brick tri-level features master bedroom with fireplace, fireplace in family room, fully appointed kitchen, finished walkout basement. 2 car garage, lovely landscaping. \$139,000 SF-08

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Just Listed! Stunning 4-5 bedroom, 3-2 bath two-story dream house! This home is truly exceptional. Must See! \$449,000 WB-09

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Absolutely enchanting interior with nearly 3,000 sq. ft. of open living area. Bloomfield Hills Schools. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Elegant formal dining room. Walkout finished basement with fireplace. Gorgeous kitchen. Dock. Very contemporary interior. Splendid home. A bargain at \$224,900 WB-05

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Over 2,700 sq. ft. dream colonial. Prime location. 5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Library. Formal dining room. 24'x19' country kitchen. First floor laundry. Huge lot. Garage. Basement. Great schools. Best buy in town. \$197,500 WB-01

BEST BUYS WAYNE COUNTY

CANTON - Mint 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath contemporary. \$138,900 CA-02

CANTON - Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch. \$123,900 CA-01

LIVONIA - Mint 3 bedroom, 2 bath quad-level. \$145,000 LI-01

LIVONIA - Vacant 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath estate sale. \$129,900 LI-02

LIVONIA - Great 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath brick colonial. \$99,500 LI-03

NORTHVILLE - Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath brick colonial overlooking "Silver Springs" Lake. \$169,900 NV-02

WESTLAND - Sharp 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath brick ranch. \$110,000 WL-01

CLASSY CONDOS

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Mulberry Square. Mint 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2nd level unit. \$84,500 BL-03

ROCHESTER HILLS - Oakwood Park. Lease with option or buy! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths 2nd floor. \$83,900 RH-03

SOUTHFIELD - "Shiawassee." Sharp 2 bedroom. \$43,500 SF-07

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Misty Woods. Lease with option or buy! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths 2nd floor. \$82,900 WB-05

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Green Pointe. 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial on quiet street. Fireplace. Central air. 2 car garage. \$113,900 WB-03

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Green Pointe. Mint 2 bedroom, 2 bath ranch with vaulted ceilings, fireplace, central air, fully appointed kitchen. Finished lower level. 2 car garage. \$137,000 WB-07

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Green Pointe. Luxurious 2 bedroom, 2 bath ranch features contemporary decor. Recessed lights, skylights, finished lower level, 2 car garage. \$152,900 WB-04

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Green Pointe. Just Listed! 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath townhouse with fireplace in living room, kitchen appliances. \$119,900 WB-08

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