

Spring Classes

Classes continue Saturday mornings at 10:30 am. Classes are free and no preregistration is required.

April 17 - Soil Preparation

April 24 - Compost

May 1 - Seed Propagation

May 8 - Companion Planting

May 15 - Insects and Pest Control

May 22 - Flowers for Beginners

Ecology Action Board Meetings

Thursday, April 8 at 7:30 pm. Meet at 855 Clara Drive in Palo Alto. A vegetarian potluck dinner precedes the meeting at 6:30. All are welcome.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, June 10 but we don't know the location yet.

The White Fly Papers

White flies have been a devastating problem since the aerial spray and continue to plague gardens this spring. Don't give up hope! The predators are there, but beneficial insects like ladybugs take much longer to rebuild their population than the destructive insects. In the mean time, a really effective trap can be made by smearing a piece of yellow cardboard with a sticky layer of motor oil or tack trap. White flies, and many other insects, are irresistibly attracted to clear strong yellow - but it must not be orangey at all. "Tack Trap", sold at Common Ground, holds them to the trap when they land. 10W motor oil and tanglefoot also work well but may discolor the yellow as they are not as clear. These traps can be posted in the garden or you can hold one next to the ailing plant while you shake the white flies off and watch them zoom smack into the board.

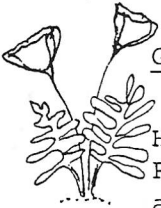
A word about buying beneficial insects. We will sell Praying Mantid Egg Cases at Common Ground again, but do not sell ladybugs. The way they are packaged and sold, off hardware shelves, means that many of them die and we don't feel that's right. We do recommend that you order directly by mail from one of the companies listed here. Orders arrive promptly and in healthy condition. Do realize that only "older" ladybugs are available through May and they may not stay in your garden as readily as the new ladybugs available in June.

Bio-Control Co., 13451 Highway 174, P.O. Box 247, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924 sells Ladybeetles, Green Lacewings, Trichogramma and Chinese Praying Mantis for pest control. Send for the price list and catalog - full of good information.

Rincon-Vitova Insectaries, P.O. Box 95, Oak View, CA 93022, sells Lacewing Larvae, Lady Bugs, Trichogramma, Fly Parasites for use in animal pens and manure piles, and various parasites of scale and white flies.

Help!

Common Ground needs containers for transporting cute little seedlings - clean yoghurt and cottage cheese containers are perfect - also plastic pots, etc. THANK-YOU to all who brought extra paper bags - they are much appreciated.

 Garden News - New garden projects are sprouting like beautiful wildflowers!

In the S.F. Bay Area, Dave Duhon is setting up an economic mini-farm. He says the first beds are in as well as water lines and shelter. Kevin Raftery is setting up a garden project at Hidden Villa, the Duveneck Ranch, as part of their educational program used by schools and many others all over the Bay Area.

At the site we visited last year near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, a research, teaching and demonstration garden will be starting under the direction of a Dutch-born bio-intensive horticulturalist. They will be training women in bio-intensive growing techniques almost immediately, then acting as a center for continued studies of compost techniques, testing of tropical crops, water use and pest populations. A second garden will be started in the drier, more desert-like region near Ciudad Vitoria in a year.

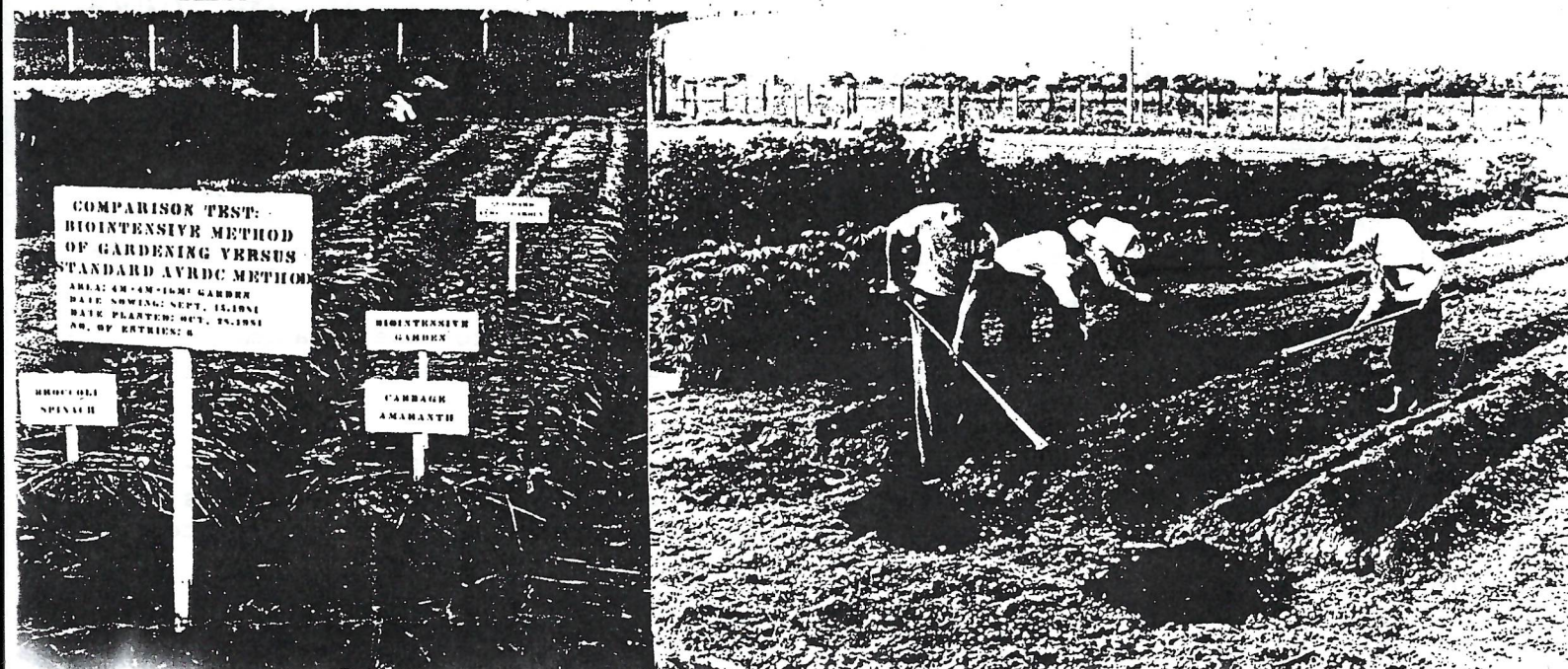
Beth Pinckney in Kenya spent February traveling with a Catholic Nun/nurse who trains health workers. It is hoped that intensive gardening techniques can be incorporated in the preventive health care classes. Beth's garden work in a transient area of Nairobi has also sparked the interest of a worker there with the Ford Foundation.

During April the Canadian International Development Agency is expected to send a woman with a strong crop-raising background to train at the new Willits mini-farm site. Four months later she will go to Sikkim (near Nepal) for a two year period. The demonstration garden there is expected to have an influence in Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet.

The well-known Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center in Taiwan is currently running side by side tests of their current semi-intensive chemical practices with biodynamic/French intensive raised beds fed only compost. Tests are being run in both highland and lowland tropical sites. Initial results show the bio-intensive beds need slightly more labor but produce slightly higher yields. Both AVRDC and the U.S. Agency for International Development are impressed because of the much lower capital inputs being used and that higher yields were obtained in the first season. The extra labor required is not a problem there. The project was initially suggested by Hugh Roberts of VIISA. It will be several years before all results are in. (Photos are included in this newsletter)

Excellent reviews of Ecology Action's mini-series booklets have been appearing in Manas and in Peter Tonge's garden columns in the Christian Science Monitor

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The following news item appeared in the China Daily (Dec. 1981) only a month after Liu Yingxiang's participation in the Third International Conference on Small-Scale Intensive Food-Raising in Santa Barbara and visits with West Coast bio-intensive sites including the staffs of the Saratoga Garden and Ecology Action. Part of Ecology Action's contribution was to have its "Biointensive Mini-Farming" booklet and Slide Show script translated into Chinese for the Chinese representatives.

Headline: INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE PROPOSAL ADVOCATED

A four-point proposal on intensive agriculture has received widespread attention.

Liu Yingxiang, deputy director of the Henan Provincial Commission on Agriculture, made the proposal to the provinces's conference of municipal and prefectural party secretaries.

Liu is a wheat expert himself and under his direction the Yuetan Brigade of Ynashi County has maintained a stable production of more than 400 kilogrammes of wheat per mu since 1976. He is just back from the second international congress on intensive farming held in California.

He advocates the use of organic fertilisers. Although many countries use mainly chemical fertilisers which ruin the soil structure and reduce its fertility, China has tradi-

tionally engaged in intensive farming, relying principally on organic fertilisers.

RECENT TREND

There has been a recent trend, however, to neglect the organic property of the soil. Nightsoil, a superb organic fertiliser, has been especially underused.

Liu calculates that a human being produces a yearly quantify of more than 500 kilogrammes - "a great reservoir" of fertilisers that must not be neglected.

Liu also calls for development of small-scale intensive enterprises to enrich peasants as rapidly as possible

etc.

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Robin's Report on the New Garden Site

Our tentative moving date of March 1 has now slipped to April 12 and a brash confidence tells us it can be done. More visits to the new site in Willits, California confirm that it is indeed beautiful and virtually untouched though perhaps a bit steeper than "sloping". This garden will have a close kinship with Chadwick's hillside garden at UC Santa Cruz. Also the storms that drenched California the end of March dumped 4-6 inches of snow on the new site - making the kids ever more eager to get up there.

An old but cared-for house trailer has been purchased to live in temporarily. Work will start first on the animal pens and then the garden.

We're especially grateful to long-time friends of Ecology Action who are advancing John enough funds to get started while the sale of his home in Palo Alto is completed.

We don't yet have a new address, and don't expect to get a phone at all, but we'll still be reachable through the center in Palo Alto. Hasta Luego - Robin, John, Paka, Dan, Shawna, and Annaliese.



For New England

The Rural Education Center, Stonyfield Farm, Wilton, New Hampshire, 03086. "The goal of The Rural Education Center is the development of a land-based culture in which people, communities and regions are self-sufficient in food, fiber and fuel." One-day workshops cover Intensive Vegetable Gardening, Greenhouse Gardening, Sheep and Pigs. Membership is \$20/year.

Apprenticeships in Colorado

The Windstar Foundation, Box 286, Snowmass, CO 81654, is offering two month long apprenticeships in Biodynamic/French intensive Horticulture. First session: May 17-June 12. Second session August 16 - Sept. 11. A fee of \$200 covers tuition and housing in tipis. The site is beautiful and instruction is under Keith Keating, Chadwick's head gardener in Virginia.

"Embrace the Earth"

An evening of music, theater and dance to support nuclear disarmament. Saturday, April 10 at 8 pm at Encina Station on the Stanford campus. For directions call 497-3409, for more information call 323-9188

Also, gatherings in front of the Palo Alto City Hall the first Sunday of each month have been quite moving because of their non-aligned tone. People appear to witness to their desire for peace.

The Organic Farming Act of 1982

Oregon Democratic Congressman Jim Weaver has introduced H.R. 5618, "The Organic Farming Act of 1982". It is intended to help those farmers concerned about soil erosion and nutrient depletion, by boosting the research and information available on alternative farming methods. The bill has two basic components. First, it requires the Secretary of Agriculture to make existing data and information available at local offices of the Cooperative Extension Service. Second, it would establish six pilot research programs at land grant universities throughout America. Hearings will be held on the bill this spring.

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