



From Farm Road

48th DAA Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Program March/April 2011 www.agfair.org

Located at:
Bldg. F10 Farm Road,
Mt. San Antonio College

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Mission

To increase the understanding, appreciation and participation of urban teachers and students in agriculture and nutrition through cooperative involvements of the California agricultural industry, educational institutions and community partners.

Square Foot Gardening

by Jo Ann Carey

How would you like to have just picked vegetables and salad greens for your healthy recipes? I don't mean grocery store "fresh," picked before ripe, days old by the time you see them at the store, and often treated with pesticides. Have you noticed how many vegetables just don't seem to have the flavor they used to have years ago? Nothing compares to the flavor of food that is grown in healthy soil, without pesticides, and allowed to grow until just the right time for harvesting. Well, now there's a way to grow your own food and not be bothered by the rising costs of produce from the store. Here are some of the benefits:

- Grow the same amount of food in 20% of the space of a traditional row garden.
- Perfect for city dwellers who have very little space for gardening.
- Grow your favorites, the ones you can't find in the store anymore.
- NO tilling the soil – use a special mix on top of your existing soil.
- NO fertilizing – special mix is balanced for best growth.
- SAVE water.
- One 4 x 4 foot space will provide enough salad for 1 or 2 persons' daily use for an entire season.
- A second 4 x 4 foot space will provide enough vegetables for 1 or 2 persons' daily use for an entire season.
- Boxes can be made to fit on a table or sawhorses for people who can't get up and down easily. Smaller ones can be made for patios, balconies or rooftops.
- The only tools you will need after you set up your boxes are a small hand trowel for planting and a pair of scissors for snipping.
- Good activity for all ages.

Square foot gardening is being taught in Third World countries to families to help them improve their diets with fresh vegetables. I think we could use some of that same improvement right where we live, and have fun doing it.

Who started it all for me? Mel Bartholomew, author of "All New Square Foot Gardening". His website is: <http://squarefootgardening.com/>.

He has a new cookbook out that has lots of gardening tips included.

I also have a new website, <http://squareftgardens4u.com>. I welcome comments and pictures. I'm looking for gardeners for my featured gardener page. I will be happy to list related events on the website calendar.

Biography: I'm a 76 year old single grandma/mom living in Arcadia, CA, raising my 15 year old granddaughter and enjoying my new square foot garden project in my 25 ft by 25 ft backyard. That's plenty of space to experiment, with plans to make it into a teaching garden for the community and for nearby schools. I'm on the Azusa Community Garden planning committee, to be officially open



Attendees at our Square Foot Garden Workshop teamed up to prepare the Bartholomew soil mixture for our 4x4 foot garden frame.

Major sponsors

State of California,
Department of Food & Agriculture,
Division of Fairs & Expositions
Mt. San Antonio College
Industry Manufacturers Council
Agricultural Awareness & Literacy Foundation
Walnut Valley Kiwanis Club
Anonymous Donor

Join SCAN!

The Southern California Agriculture and Nutrition Foundation (SCAN) was established to provide support to the Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Program — 48th DAA. Friends of SCAN receive our newsletter, invitations to our events and annual meeting. Call 48th office for an application and join today!

and

Join the Albertsons/Sav-On Drugs Community Partners Program and your eligible purchases on your Preferred Savings Card will result in a donation to our program. Details are on our web site.

soon for Azusa residents. I teach square foot gardening workshops at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. I just did a workshop to help launch a square foot garden project for the Los Angeles Unified School District after school program. I did a workshop for the Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Program — AgFair people who sponsor an annual fair at the L.A. County Fairgrounds in April 12-16. You can find out more about them at www.agfair.org. I'm working on my biggest project ever, planning to have a square foot garden with 34 4' x 8' plots on the rooftop of Union Rescue Mission in downtown Los Angeles, to help feed the homeless. I'm available to do talks and workshops on request.



Square foot garden, one month later.

California Women for Agriculture

Joan Smith, Past CEO, 48th DAA

I was born and grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and the closest I came to agriculture was a victory garden, if you remember what that was. I knew that farms existed and what their purpose was, but that had nothing to do with me or my life. Or so I thought.

I first went to a meeting of California Women for Agriculture because it related to my job, and the first thing I learned there was that if you eat and wear clothes, you are related to agriculture. I've learned a lot more since then.

Agriculture was the number one industry in California, and is still very important to our state's economy. What CWA does is try to tell agriculture's story, to teach students that food doesn't come from the grocery store and that farmers treat their animals well because the animals are their livelihood. Many of the chapters support students and teachers with scholarships as well as run educational programs throughout the state. Our chapter members serve as judges for the Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Fair and will be helping with the Spelling Bee this year.

The Los Angeles Chapter is proud to have teachers among its membership. The annual dues are only \$30 per year, \$25 for a supporting member. Become a member; you'll be glad you did.

For questions, visit our website at www.californiawomenforag.com, call me

at 562-596-0025 or e-mail to gsgirl64@yahoo.com. We'd love to welcome you.

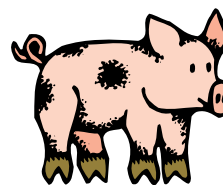
Worm Bins Available

Attention Teachers: We can provide teachers a discount on worm bins through our USDA grant. The Worm bins regularly sell for \$65 each; with the USDA grant, they are available for \$40 each.

Teachers need to prepay for their worm bins; mail checks, payable to the 48th DAA, to P.O. Box 707, Walnut, CA 91788-0707. The worm bins will be available for pick up on Saturday, April 16 at the fair. There will also be a worm composting workshop available to teachers, 11 am to noon at the Fair.

Call 909-468-4433 or email daa48th@aol.com to order yours. Thank you.

Thank You, Teachers



The 48th would like to extend our appreciation to **all** the teachers in our program who have worked hard to get their student and classroom entries to the fair. We know what a busy

schedule you have at your school, yet you still took the time to be sure your students had the opportunity to learn more about agriculture and nutrition by doing projects for the fair. Thank you for your continued support and participation in our program and our fair.

Special thanks to Laura Zuber and Rochelle Moss, teachers at Hidden Trails in Chino Hills, for going the extra step in spreading the word about our fair by adding Fair entry information on the back of all blank entry forms that went home to parents. Creative Idea!

Hidden Trails teachers and students entered hundreds of projects thanks to Laura and Rochelle's diligence.

Thank you to teacher Shelley Andros, Whittier Christian Elementary, and Randy Decker, Downey Fly Fisherman's Club. Randy picked up our trout eggs at the hatchery, and Shelley housed them in her tank over the long holiday weekend until our staff arrived to collect and deliver to our other teachers in the program.

Thank you, Shelly Rzonca, teacher at Sky Mountain Charter, for helping us with the incubation process of hatching chick eggs for the fair. Also, Shelly has been helpful and supportive with our chick hatching program, and she is a great resource for fertilized eggs to our teachers.

— Silvia Bishop, Patty Anis, and Joan Kriger

Important Dates

March is:

National Umbrella Month
National Women's History Month
National Frozen Food Month
National Nutrition Month
Youth Art Month

April is:

Grange Month
National Pecan Month
National Poetry Month
Straw Hat Month

More Information:

Biodiesel http://journeytoforever.org/biodiesel_link.html
National Ag Day www.agday.org/
National Grange www.nationalgrange.org/
National Week of the Ocean www.national-week-of-the-ocean.org/
California Poppy Festival www.poppyfestival.com/
National Auctioneers Association www.auctioneers.org/
American Egg Board www.aeb.org/
Arbor Day www.arborday.org/

Credits:

CFAITC: www.learnaboutag.com
Chase's Calendar of Events 2011

March

1 National Pig Day
1 -7 National Write a Letter of Appreciation Week — Send a letter expressing your gratitude to someone in the broad field of agriculture--producers, processors, transportation workers, lenders. The list goes on and on!

6 -12 National Pancake Week

7 -11 National School Breakfast Week

7 -11 Newspaper in Education Week

7 Luther Burbank birth anniversary, 1849 — Burbank developed hundreds of new varieties of plants during his career, including the Shasta daisy and the plumcot.

12 Genealogy Day — Go dig up that family tree. How many generations back was agriculture a significant part of your history?

18 National Biodiesel Day — Birthday of Rudolph Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine. Biodiesel doesn't contain any petroleum and is derived from vegetable oils.

20 First Day of Spring — Spring finally has sprung! Celebrate by planting seeds in a garden or in pots to line a windowsill.

20 -26 National Ag Week — Honor America's providers of food and fiber and educate future generations about the US agricultural system. National Agriculture Day: March 20

22 United Nations World Day for Water —How important is water in agriculture?

April

3 -9 National Week of the Ocean — Aquaculture is an important part of American agriculture.

3 -9 Explore Your Career Options Week —Tons of careers in agriculture don't have a thing to do with growing

food. Check out a great ag career Web site under Educational Resources in the Ag Weblinks page of this site.

11 Percy Julian's birth anniversary, 1899 — Julian used soybean oil and soy proteins to invent inexpensive alternatives medical treatments.

14 Grapes of Wrath published, 1939

16 -17 California Poppy Festival

16 National Auctioneers Day — Auctioneers provide an invaluable service within the livestock industry.

22 Earth Day Anniversary —22 April 70

24 Robert Bailey Thomas birth anniversary, 1766 — Founder and editor of The Farmer's Almanac (first issue published in 1793). The Farmer's Almanac is still widely used today.

25 -30 Egg Salad Week — Annually held the full week after Easter; this day is dedicated to the many uses for the egg--and to all the hens which laid them!

29 National Arbor Day — How are trees related to agriculture?

The Annual WEWAC PSA Contest Is Here

It is time to prepare for the annual WEWAC High School PSA Contest. The application period is coming to a rapid close and all entries must be postmarked or delivered by 4:00 pm, April 8th, 2011. For more information about eligibility and criteria, log on to www.UseWaterWisely.com and click on the "PSA Contest" icon.

Plant of the Month

What drought resistant plant has white or rose colored flowers, is hardy in all zones and is used in perennial flower beds or as background shrub masses? To see if you have the correct answer for this mystery Plant of the Month please visit www.UseWaterWisely.com.

**Directions
to 48th DAA
Office:**

**From the 57
Freeway:** Exit at
Temple, go West. Turn
right on Bonita, turn right
at the stop sign. Continue
straight through parking
lot. Stay to the left and
turn left onto Farm Road.
Follow directional signage.

**From the 10
Freeway:** Exit at
Grand, go South. Turn
left at Temple, turn left
at Bonita, turn right at
the stop sign. Continue
straight through parking
lot. Stay to the left and
turn left onto Farm Road.
Follow directional signage.



WESTERN FAIRS ASSOCIATION

Member of Western
Fairs Association

Save the Dates!

April 12–16, 2011 Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Fair "Eat Your Colors"

1st Take-in: See page 9 of Exhibitor Handbook.

Includes: Ag Science Projects, Bird Houses, Crafts,
Desktop Publishing, Dioramas, Essay, Fabric Wall
Hanging, Missions, Models, Murals, Needlework,
Painting/Drawing, Photography, Poetry, Sawhorses,
Scarecrows, Seed Art, Sewing Construction, and
Video. Also, High School Fine Arts projects.

March 25: 2–6 pm

March 26: 9 am–4 pm

2nd Take-in –See page 17 of
Exhibitor Handbook.

Includes: Beneficial Insects and Worms, Booths/Set
up, Bottle Biology, Horticulture, Hydroponics, and
Table Setting.

April 8: 2–6 pm

April 9: 9 am–4 pm

Bring Fair Entries to:

Fairplex, Building 10
1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona, 91768
Enter Gate 1 off McKinley Avenue

If anyone has any concerns about delivering
their entries to the Fairplex, please contact us
at (909) 468-4433. We're here to help you.

Visit our website at www.agfair.org
for fair hours and updates.

Attendance and Parking are FREE! Go to
Gate 1, you will be directed where to park.

Saturday, April 16 — Spelling Bee

Grades 1–2, 10:30 a.m.

Grades 3–4, 12:30 p.m.

Grades 5–6, 1:30 p.m.; ends 2:30 p.m.

Teacher Recognition and Awards Ceremonies:
3:00–5:00 p.m.

May 7, 2011 — Mt. SAC Farm Day

Farm Day at Mt San Antonio College, 9am
– 3pm! Come visit the farm on campus, see
demonstrations and enjoy a hayride.



Seasonally dressed Scarecrows at the Fair.



Did You Know?

Chick incubators available for classrooms
(with a notebook including "In An Egg Shell:
Egg To Chick To Egg" and instructions using
your incubator and hatching your eggs)

Hatching eggs supplier: Pricilla's Eggs **909.594.2401**

**We provide special curriculum materials
for:** EarthBox kits; Cotton Journey Kits; Bread Kits;

Trout in the Classroom supplies.

Aligned curriculum on Ag and Nutrition related subjects:

Apples; Wind Energy; Vegetable gardening in containers; Plants to grow in
a drought; Building a Square Foot Garden; Fruits and Vegetables for Health;
DVDs, books on Ag related subjects; Seed packets for School Gardens

The 48th DAA works with teachers from Pre K to 12th Grade. Teachers
and parents – we look forward to meeting you! **909.468.4433.**