

Upcoming Classes

Please call us, 388-4877, to save a seat for these upcoming classes:

The Total Landscape: From lawns & shade to food - Thursday, March 19, 5:15pm

Kids Make & Take - Saturday, March 21, various times

Seminar - Vegetable Gardening 101 - Saturday, April 4, 10am

Edible Gardening Boom

While we complete our Annual Container Make & Take workshops, we've been captivated by the number of you who have stopped in to renew your commitment to your vegetable gardens and by the numbers of you who are entirely new to the practice. Seems we're not alone.

"A backyard garden of modest size can deliver a return on investment that is exceptional by any standard, ranging right up to 20,000 percent." That's what George Ball, chairman of W. Atlee Burpee & Co., said in a recent newspaper column.

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20090227_The_riches_at_your_feet.html

Admittedly, he's got a vested interest, but the numbers pan out, as he goes on to illustrate.

"A single tomato plant will, over the course of the summer, yield up to 40 medium to large fruits. Your local supermarket is now selling tomatoes for 75 cents to a dollar each. So figure your single tomato plant's yield is \$30 to \$40 per season.

"A seed packet contains, say, 25 guaranteed seeds out of 30 total. Put the average plant's yield at \$35, multiply it by 25, and you get \$875 worth of store-bought tomatoes from a seed packet that retails for \$3 to \$4.

"Your return on investment? Better than 200 to 1, or 20,000 percent."

Findings from a recent National Gardening Association (NGA)

<http://www.garden.org/home>

survey show food gardening on the rise, as 7 million more U.S. households plan to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs or berries in 2009. This is a 19 percent increase from 2008.

According to NGA estimates, a well-maintained food garden yields a \$500 average return per garden when considering a typical gardener's investment and the market price of produce.

Here are some highlights from the survey:

- 43 million U.S. households plan to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs and berries in 2009.
- 21% of households said they plan to start a food garden in 2009.

Take a look at the reasons respondents were motivated to grow their own food:

- 58%—for better-tasting food
- 54%—to save money on food bills
- 51%—for better quality food
- 48%—to grow food they know is safe