Central Illinois Teaching with Primary Sources Newsletter

Watching It Grow: Gardens

Inside This Issue:

- Topic Introduction: 2
- Connecting to Illinois: 3
- Close to Home: 3
- Learn More with American Memory: 4
- In The Classroom: 6
- Test Your Knowledge: 8
- Image Sources: 9

Contacts:

- Melissa Carr
  mcarr@eiu.edu
  Editor
- Cindy Rich
  cwrich@eiu.edu
- Amy Wilkinson
  amwilki@siue.edu

eiu.edu/~eiutps/newsletter
Welcome to the Central Illinois Teaching with Primary Sources Newsletter, a collaborative project of Teaching with Primary Sources Programs at Eastern Illinois University and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Our goal is to bring you topics that connect to the Illinois Learning Standards as well as provide you with amazing items from the Library of Congress. Gardens are mentioned specifically within ISBE materials for the following Illinois Learning Standards (found within goal, standard, benchmark or performance descriptors): 13. Understand the relationships among science, technology and society in historical and contemporary contexts.

Throughout history, people have gardened. Growing a garden was a necessity for the Pilgrims. The early colonists cleared land for planting crops but when the Native Americans offered food, the English began to ignore their crops and turned their attention to exploring for quick riches. In 1621, the Pilgrims celebrated a successful crop with a three-day feast later known as Thanksgiving. Even with their successful crop, much of the food served at the first Thanksgiving came from the gardens of the Native Americans.

Gardening has always been essential during war time. During WWI and WWII, victory gardens, also called war gardens, were planted to help ensure sufficient food supply for civilians and troops. Colorful posters and articles in newspapers and magazines helped to promote the victory gardens. Americans began to plow their back yards, front yards, vacant lots and school yards to plant gardens. By 1943, there were 20 million gardens producing eight million tons of food. These gardens produced up to 41% of all vegetables consumed in the U.S. Besides reducing the pressure on the public food supply, these gardens were morale boosters for the home front. A gardener could feel proud of their contribution to the war effort.

Today, gardening has become a popular hobby and big business. In 2009, an estimated 81 million American households partook in one or more garden or lawn activities. The average household spent $444 dollars on these activities, as a nation, we spent $436 billion on our lawn and gardens. There are books, internet sites and television channels offering the gardener expert help. Famous gardeners like Martha Stewart and P. Allen Smith show the average gardener how it is done with tips and advice. As gardening’s popularity increased, the gardens began to spread out from vegetables to flowers, rocks, water and container gardening. No matter where you live, there is a garden just right for you.

With the challenges that come with growing a garden in Illinois, it is a wonder people even attempt this feat. The conditions are not always perfect and the weather often refuses to cooperate. But Illinois gardeners persevere and their efforts are rewarded with beautiful and fragrant flowers, serene landscapes and bountiful vegetables ready to be prepared for a family dinner.

From small window boxes to acres of botanical gardens, the stunning array of colors found in Illinois flowers is almost endless. The cool shades of blue to a warm shade of red are guaranteed to catch your eye. Most gardeners will add their splash of color by growing both annuals and perennials. Since annuals only grow for one season, impatians, petunias and marigolds add a season of color. Black eyed susan, bearded iris and tulips will return year after year. Gardeners often plant flowers not only for their enjoyment but for the survival of wildlife. Flowers and bushes are essential for butterflies and hummingbirds. But do your homework before you plant, there are some plants that are illegal to grow in Illinois.

A trickling fountain, cool smooth stones and a cobblestone path are all some need to relax from the stress of everyday. A rock, water or Japanese garden can provide needed solitude from the busy world. If space is a problem for creating your own Zen garden then take a trip to a botanical garden, it can provide calmness with an array of flowers and gardens to admire.

As we become more environmentally responsible, people are looking into sustainable gardening. Knowing where our food comes from has become increasingly important. Vegetable gardeners have felt this way for years. To be able to have organic fresh fruits and vegetables is part of the reward for people who grow vegetable gardens. Even if you don’t have a green thumb, you can still take advantage of your local farmer’s market. Here you can find fresh fruits and vegetables, many grown by your friends and neighbors.

Growing a garden is very beneficial. It can become a hobby or just entertainment and relaxation. It also provides us and wildlife with food. No matter what kind of garden you delight in get outside, get your hands in the dirt and enjoy.

Garden Simply.com, Sustainable Organic Gardening for Food, Accessed 10.20.10

Plant native.com, Native Plant List for Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, Accessed 10.20.10


Close to Home – Heartland Highways

Each month we will share a link to a relative episode of Heartland Highways that provides additional information featuring people and places right here in central Illinois. Heartland Highways is a production of WEIU and episodes are available to view online at http://www.weiu.net/hh. (Select the season on the right side of the page and then the episode.)

In season 8, episode 804, Lori and Kate explore EIU’s gardens. The impressive skill set and passion for plants is highlighted when we meet Larry Shobe, Eastern Illinois University’s gardener. Then, The Lilly House and Gardens may be in the heart of Indianapolis, but it sure doesn’t feel like it!
The Panoramic Photograph Collection contains approximately four thousand images featuring American cityscapes, landscapes, and group portraits. These panoramas offer an overview of the nation, its enterprises and its interests, with a focus on the start of the twentieth century when the panoramic format was at the height of its popularity. Panoramic photographs typically have a length that is at least twice as long as the panorama's width. Most panoramas in this website measure more than twenty-eight inches in length. Gardens represented in this collection include Busch Gardens, Garden of the Gods and the Vatican Gardens.

Library of Congress, American Memory, Accessed 10.20.10


This collection features Washington, D.C. as a developing urban center. The images highlight the architecture of government, industrial, commercial, and residential buildings. Theodor Horydczak was a commercial photographer who worked in Washington, D.C., from the early 1920s until he retired in 1959. He produced photographs for commercial clients and scenes that were used on postcards and calendars, as well as for other commercial purposes. There are a large number of architectural photographs, including the monuments, memorials, and outdoor sculpture. Horydczak captures Washington D.C. through beautiful botanical gardens and private residential gardens.

Library of Congress, Teachers Page, Collection Connection, Accessed 10.20.10

Tending the Commons: Folklife and Landscape in Southern West Virginia http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/tending/index.html

Using sound recordings, photographs and manuscripts this collection documents the traditional uses of the mountains in southern West Virginia's Big Coal River Valley. The mountains have supported a way of life that for many generations has entailed hunting, gathering, and subsistence gardening, as well as coal mining and timbering. There are numerous photographs of local vegetable gardens full of broccoli, sweet corn and pole beans ready for harvest. You can hear an oral history about a potato the size of a car and answer the question, what exactly are Leather Britches?

Library of Congress, American Memory, Accessed 10.20.10


The Detroit Photographic Company was launched as a photographic publishing firm in the late 1890s by Detroit businessman and publisher William A. Livingstone, Jr., and photographer and photo-publisher Edwin H. Husher. Late in 1897, Livingstone persuaded the
accomplished American landscape photographer, William Henry Jackson, to join the firm. This added the thousands of negatives produced by Jackson to the Detroit Photographic Company's inventory. Jackson's collection included city and town views, images of prominent buildings, scenes along railroad lines, views of hotels and resorts, and the like. Images of exquisite gardens are abundant in this collection. The black and white photographs transform you to private magnolia lined estate gardens to well groomed public gardens.

Library of Congress, American Memory, Accessed 10.20.10

The Nineteenth Century in Print: Periodicals
Incorporating magazines and journals with an emphasis on those intended for a general audience, make up this collection of over 955 volumes from twenty-two nineteenth century periodicals. The jewel of this collection is the full run of Garden and Forest: A Journal of Horticulture, Landscape Art and Forestry fully digitized by the Preservation Reformatting Division of the Library of Congress.

Library of Congress, American Memory, Accessed 10.20.10

History of the American West, 1860-1920
Sunken gardens, Japanese gardens and the Grand Canyon are just a few of the garden images available in this collection. These images, mostly taken between 1860 and 1920, illuminate the history of the American west. Photographs were mostly taken in Colorado but also included are photographs from California and Illinois.

Library of Congress, American Memory, Accessed 10.20.10

Photographs from the Chicago Daily News: 1902-1933
The images in this collection focus mainly on urban life, the hustle and bustle of the city but this collection also shows a different side to the city, an easy going side. Images from Lincoln Park, Garfield Park and the Botanical Gardens show people enjoying flower gardens, practicing their fly fishing and enjoying a game of golf. Many of the photographs of gardeners tending their vegetables and flowers are set as portraits. Images of children working in war gardens and students tending school gardens are found in this collection. Numerous photographs of plants and flowers found at the Lincoln Park Conservatory are highlighted in this collection.

Library of Congress, American Memory, Accessed 10.20.10
In this section you will find items pertaining to the current theme that can be used in your classroom. This is a small sample of items available through the Library, conduct your own search for gardens to find more.

Webcasts
http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/index.php


The Herb Garden at the National Arboretum http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=3817


Gardening for Ozone Air Quality http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=3393


Library of Congress Preservation http://www.loc.gov/preserv/


America's Story
http://www.americaslibrary.gov

Meet Amazing Americans:


Explore the States:

Prints and Photographs
http://www.loc.gov/pictures


Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black and White Negative http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/fsa/


Horydczak Collection http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/thc/

Genthe Collection http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/agc/

Korab Collection http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/krb/

Johnston (Frances Benjamin) Collection http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/fbj/

Journeys and Crossings http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/journey/

School Gardens http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/journey/schoolgardens.html

Science Reference Services

Gardening http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/tracer-bullets/gardeningtb.html


Everyday Mysteries http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/

Largest Flower in the World http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/flower.html

Squash http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/squash.html
In the Classroom: Lesson Plans, Activities and Resources

Teacher's Page
http://www.loc.gov/teachers

Presentations:
Garden and Forest
http://www.loc.gov/preserv/prd/gardfor/essays/essaysongf.html

Lesson Plans:
Looking into Holidays Past Through Primary Sources
http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/holidays-past/

On the Homefront

Collection Connections:
American Landscape and Architectural Design, 1850-1920
http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/american-landscapes/history.html

Exhibitions
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/

World War I War Gardens
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm237.html

Amid Gardens and Nature-A Petal from the Rose: Illustrations by Elizabeth Shippen Green
http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/swann/petal/gardens.html

People at Work-The Empire that was Russia
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/work.html
Find the Difference: Below is a picture of the Vatican Garden in Rome in 1909 and 2009. List the differences between the two over 100 years.

Library of Congress, American Memory, Vatican Garden 1909, Panoramic Photographs

Vatican Garden 2009, Courtesy Dr. Cindy Rich, Eastern Illinois University Teaching with Primary Sources
Victory Gardens—for family and country. Guiding hand behind the establishment of many West coast Victory Gardens, Professor Harry Nelson of San Francisco's Junior College still finds time to give his ten-year-old daughter Pat (left) and her Girl Scout friends some pointers in transplanting young vegetables.

The seeds of victory insure the fruits of peace

Turlock, California. Housewife works in her vegetable garden. She lives in small town where there is ample space for gardens; says she would move to country if she couldn't have a garden in town

A catalogue of garden seeds, &c. for sale by Theophilus Holt, at his nursery garden, City of Washington January 1, 1808

Smith (Jessie Wilcox) Estate, rose garden, Allen Lane, Chestnut Hill, PA

Kindergarten in a vegetable garden, Washington, D.C.
Image Sources

Library of Congress
American Memory
Fruit farmer's wife in her flower garden, Placer County, California
America from the Great Depression to WWII: Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945

Library of Congress
Prints and Photographs
Rock garden and small pond surrounded by flowers and shrubs, Mr. Gamble's home

Library of Congress
American Memory
Jones digs up cabbages
Working in Paterson

Library of Congress
American Memory
Bush Gardens
Panoramic Photographs

Library of Congress
American Memory
Gardens, Azaleas in bloom, trees, horizontal I.
Washington as it was: Photographs by Theodor Horydczak, 1923-1959

Library of Congress
American Memory
Gardens, Wisteria blossoms
Washington as it was: Photographs by Theodor Horydczak, 1923-1959

Library of Congress
American Memory
Ben Burnside's hoes: the center hoe was made by Ben's father to be used in the raised areas in which sweet potatoes are grown, the smallest hoe is used between rows of beets and onions
Tending to the Commons: Folklife and Landscape in Southern West Virginia

Library of Congress
American Memory
Spider flowers (cleome) in Ben Burnside's garden
Tending to the Commons: Folklife and Landscape in Southern West Virginia

Library of Congress
American Memory
Woman near flowering shrub at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, S.C.
Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company, 1880-1920
Image Sources

Library of Congress
American Memory
Ashley Hall, Magnolia-on-the-Ashley (i.e. Magnolia Gardens), Charleston, S.C.
Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company, 1880-1920

Library of Congress
American Memory
Italian Gardens (Harper’s new monthly magazine/Volume 87, Issue 519, August
The Nineteenth-Century in Print: Periodicals

Library of Congress
American Memory
Japanese pond/garden
History of American West, 1860-1920: Photographs from the Collection of the Denver Public Library

Library of Congress
American Memory
Peggy Burke standing in a garden, leaning over and touching flowers on a bush
Photographs from the Chicago Daily News, 1902-1933

Library of Congress
American Memory
Bird of paradise bloom
Photographs from the Chicago Daily News, 1902-1933

Library of Congress
Prints and Photographs
Uncle Sam says-garden to cut food costs. Ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C., for a free bulletin on gardening-its food for thought

Library of Congress
Exhibits
Rising vigorously out of the earth was a little rose bush

Library of Congress
Science Reference Service
Everyday Mysteries
What is the largest flower in the world? The Rafflesia arnoldii

Library of Congress
Prints and Photographs
Gardener with spade among flowers
If you or your school is interested in learning more about the Library of Congress resources please contact us. Our program offers individualized professional development using the rich resources offered by the Library of Congress.