February, 1918

Colorado Agricultural College
EXTENSION SERVICE
Fort Collins, Colorado

H. T. FRENCH, Director

REPORTS AND PLANS
OF TOWN AND CITY
GARDEN CLUBS

By
W. E. VAPLON
State Leader Boys' and Girls' Clubs

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS—COLORADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATING
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REPORTS AND PLANS OF TOWN CITY GARDEN CLUBS

By W. E. VAPLON
State Leader of Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs

A large part of a child’s education is acquired outside of the schoolroom. The best type of education is that which makes the child familiar with the things about him. Garden clubs are especially valuable for this purpose because the work is carried on during the summer months, when the activities of many children are not wisely directed. There is no good reason for our children being idlers during the three months when school is not in session. Out-of-doors activities, usually devoted exclusively to play, may thru club work, be directed to a larger field of effort. The child not only learns some of the fundamentals of agriculture and horticulture but acquires habits of thrift and the ambition to be a producer and an owner.

Fort Morgan Garden Club 1917

A large number of the towns and cities of Colorado carried on the garden club work in 1917 under paid supervision. In each case the work was considered well worth while and will be continued.
This bulletin is for city and school officials and all others who are interested in promoting garden club work. The purpose is to give the results of the work and to propose a plan of operation.

**KINDS OF GARDENS**

There are three kinds of gardens: the home garden, the vacant lot garden, and the large-tract garden. Each type has its advantages and the community must decide which is best suited to its needs. In cases where the back lots are not suitable for gardening, where the family requires the ground or where a big crop is desired, the vacant lot or larger tract may be called into service.

The supervisor of Trinidad's gardens feels most kindly toward the home garden because of the opportunity it gives him of getting into personal touch with the parents. Home gardens also promote the greatest co-operation between parents and children.

The vacant lot gardens make use of much waste land and tend to beautify the city.
The Glenwood Springs Tract

The Glenwood Springs Tract in Growing Season

Weeds, tin cans, rubbish versus a beauty spot. Thirty-three idlers versus thirty-two thrift members
The City of Glenwood Springs, during the winter of 1917, cleared 5 acres, which will make a tract of 9½ acres for the club members for 1918.

The tract garden makes use of waste land, improves the appearance of the city, enables more children to take up the work, develops a true co-operative spirit and makes possible better supervision.

A tract of 4½ acres which had annually produced its crop of weeds, was prepared for the boys and girls of Glenwood Springs in 1917. This ground was divided into 33 plots and each division was allotted to a member; 32 out of the 33 members finished the season.

An unsightly block in the heart of Canon City was given over to the Garden Club. A portion of the ground was made into a tennis court, the old buildings on the site were covered with vines and the entire block was bordered with nasturtiums. Such beauty spots will do much toward making the people proud of their city.

Sterling devoted 7½ acres of land to the use of its garden club members and the school board employs the teacher of agriculture by the year, his time during the summer being devoted to garden supervision. In Fort Collins every possible back yard was made into a garden in 1917. In addition, over 100 vacant lots were planted in to vegetables and grain. In Greeley, backyards, vacant lots and larger tracts were brought into use. One Greeley
boy, on five lots, produced $174 worth of vegetables. This was his third year of gardening, which shows the value of a progressive, educational program.

Pueblo supported the garden club work with its playground funds, the supervisors dividing their time between playgrounds and gardens. The playground attendance was increased 50 per cent over previous years and the gardens were equally successful.

The sign board is a protection to the garden and an incentive to the gardener

**PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**

Probably in most places the following plan of organization could not be strictly followed. The plan is merely suggestive and in many points will be found workable in any place. The best work will be done when the largest number of city organizations are interested. The work has been very successful where the school board, city council, chamber of commerce, parent-teachers' association, women's clubs and newspapers co-operate both in the supervision and in the support of the work. While the school is the logical organization for carrying on the work, every civic organization should be represented on the working committees.

**Board of Control.**—The first step in organization will be the selection of this board. It may be composed of one representative from the various organizations mentioned above, chosen or appointed at a meeting called for that purpose. This board should employ the supervisor or supervisors, appoint all the necessary
committees and see that the committees actually do their work. Small, live committees of about three members each with some specific work to do, will succeed where larger committees fail.

The following are some of the committees which may be appointed:

Membership Committee.—This committee shall secure the enrollment of members, with such information as address, size of home garden and lot space required. The following or similar survey blank may be distributed thru the schools to advantage.

### CITY GARDEN SURVEY
To be filled out by the parents

1. Do you have a home garden? ..............................
2. Amount of land (in square feet), that could be used for gardening ..............................
3. Will you allow your children, at home or on a city lot, to work their own garden? ..............................
4. How many children in the home, in the fourth grade or above, who may enter the garden club? ..............................
5. If a city lot near your home were furnished you free of rent, would you plow it and sow it to grain or other farm crop? ..............................

Remarks ..............................

Signed ..............................
Address ..............................

After the assignment of lots some such form of enrollment blank as follows may be used:

### ENROLLMENT CARD

I, ............................................ Age ..............................
(Name)
Address ............................................, enroll in the Garden Club, having a 
Home Vacant lot  garden at ............................................
Plot (Address) and I shall (1) grow a garden; (2) keep accurate records of my garden expenses and receipts; (3) write a story of my year's work; (4) make an exhibit.

I shall encourage the above signed member in garden-canning club work. ..............................

(Parent or Guardian)
Lots Committee.—This committee shall secure the vacant lots needed for gardens. A form similar to the following may be inserted in the local papers:

**COLORADO SPRINGS VACANT AND BACK LOT SURVEY**
(To be filled out by land owners or agents and returned)
1. Have you any ground which you will donate for garden or farm purposes? Amount?
2. Back lot? Vacant lot?
   Portion of lot? Larger tract?
3. Is it irrigated? Non irrigated?
4. Exact location?
Remarks
(Signed)
Address

A map should be made of the vacant lots and this committee, working with the enrollment committee, can apportion and assign these lots.

Seed Committee.—The seed committee should advise and assist in the selection and securing of seed. Stress should be laid on the importance of planting more of the crops that can be canned, dried or stored for winter use, and less of the vegetables that must be consumed immediately.

Marketing Committee.—The children are encouraged to supply their homes with fresh and canned vegetables. The marketing committee shall make arrangements for the disposal of surplus products. This may be done by selling to local dealers or canning factories, or thru open markets or parcel post.

Canning Committee.—This committee shall see that a sufficient number of canning demonstrations are given that each club member may have the opportunity to become efficient in the cold pack method of canning.

Exhibits Committee.—There should be several exhibits held during the garden season. These exhibits will do much to encourage the workers and keep up the interest in the work. During the canning season, contests between canning teams may be held.
Shipping by Parcel Post to the Mountains

A Canning Club Member Who Canned 208 Quarts of Vegetables and Fruits
Finance Committee.—The money necessary to carry on the work and to provide prizes shall be in charge of this committee. In some places it may be necessary to hire teams for hauling manure, plowing, and harrowing, but usually this labor is donated.

Publicity Committee.—The people of the community should be kept in touch with the operations of the club by means of the press, stereopticon lectures and otherwise. This is an important part of the work and should be in charge of a strong committee.

Supervision.—The splendid work done by the garden clubs of Colorado is due, in a large part, to the supervisors, both paid and volunteer. Only in rare instances and in small communities will garden clubs succeed under volunteer leadership. Some one person must be held responsible for results and that person should be required to devote all the necessary time to the work. The paid supervisor should be a person with the ability of a leader.

In large places, it is often a good plan to have volunteer local leaders working under the direction of the paid supervisor. These local leaders can visit the members' gardens frequently and do much to keep up interest during the growing season.

Picnics, excursions, games and contests should be planned to reward faithful work.
Duties of Members.—The work will be strengthened and the members will be benefited if certain requirements are made, viz: (1) the keeping of records, blanks for which purpose are provided; (2) the making of an exhibit; (3) the writing of a story of the year’s work; (4) attendance at all meetings and strict obedience to all rules and orders.

Lincoln Park Garden Club on a Picnic

Rewards.—The plan generally followed of awarding an achievement pin to all doing the required work, is instrumental
in bringing many members through the season. In a number of towns of Northern Colorado, the bankers gave a dollar, in the form of a savings account to every member doing the required work.

Co-operation of State Leader of Boys' and Girls' Clubs and of County Agent with the Community

These parties will assist any community in planning and organizing garden clubs. Garden specialists and canning specialists have been employed by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural College to help in organization and to co-operate with the garden supervisors in giving instruction. Any community is welcome to the services of these workers and inquiries addressed to the State Leader of Boys' and Girls' Clubs at Fort Collins will be promptly answered.

Fort Morgan Club members. Sister and brother who raised sixteen kinds of vegetables without irrigation.
## COLORADO GARDEN CLUBS

**NAME:** Helen Virginia Stewart  
**ADDRESS:** 320 Willow Street  
**SIZE OF GARDEN:** 12 by 30 ft.

### RECEIPTS

When vegetables or flowers are sold, put down the amount received. When used in the home, put down the value at market price.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Kind and amount sold</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Radishes 2 bunches</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Peas 2 lb</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Peas 15 lb</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Peas 2 lb</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPLNACE ACCOUNT

On this page put down all cost connected with the garden. Charge all labor at 10¢ per hour; all labor hired, such as plowing, at actual cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Kind of work</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Hoeing ground</td>
<td>1½ hr</td>
<td>$0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Planting lettuce 1 min</td>
<td>2 min</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Sowing plants</td>
<td>30 min</td>
<td>$0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hoeing lettuce</td>
<td>1½ hr</td>
<td>$0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hoeing carrots</td>
<td>2 min</td>
<td>$0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hoeing peas</td>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>$0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hoeing tomatoes</td>
<td>1 min</td>
<td>$0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hoeing lettuces</td>
<td>30 min</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hoeing cabbage</td>
<td>1½ hr</td>
<td>$0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hoeing tomatoes</td>
<td>30 min</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hoeing peas</td>
<td>10 min</td>
<td>$0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hoeing carrots</td>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>$0.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

**$3.90**

Records of Club Members