

# Foothill News!

## Hydroponics

*Dedicated to:* Education • Research • Fun!

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### **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS GOES HYDROPONIC**

Foothill Hydroponics supplied the Huntington Botanical Gardens with Hydroponic demonstration kits, including a Mini-Hydromax Aeroponic system and a Mini Hydromax Ebb & Flow / NFT system.

The Huntington is building a wonderful addition, including a Teachers' Resource Center where teachers can observe and touch actual items relating to the subjects of botany, horticulture, gardening and agriculture.

There is also a section where teachers can obtain free literature and teaching aids, donated by many different companies.

### **HYDROPONICS GOES TO SCHOOL**

We are very proud to supply Hydroponic systems and Xtra-Edge nutrients to many institutions, schools and universities, including the following:

University of Illinois at Chicago  
Oklahoma State University  
Los Angeles United School District  
Downey United School District  
Placentia School District  
Calif. College of the Canyons, Valencia  
Amway, Inc. (herb farm operation)

### **HYDROPONIC EDUCATION IS REALLY CATCHING ON!**

An Educational Gardening Conference was held at Cal Poly Pomona, attracting about 100 enthusiastic teachers and school administrators.

Foothill Hydroponics displayed the Mini-Hydromax Aeroponic system, which was the subject of much interest, due to its small tabletop size, and the fact that the roots can be seen.

**Find out everything you ever wanted to know about raising plants Hydroponically at our website.**



- Brochures!
- Newsletters!
- Expert Advice!

[www.foothillhydroponics.com](http://www.foothillhydroponics.com)



PALM DESERT – A new community garden is set to sprout in Palm Desert.

The four-plot garden will be the newest addition to a trend that has been springing up in schools and communities in the Coachella Valley.

"It's a way to become connected to others," said Stephen Merritt, executive director of the nonprofit Community Gardens of the Coachella Valley.

"The community garden is a wonderful addition to the city," said Councilman Bob Spiegel. "We saw the opportunity to ... create a sense of community by allowing people to garden and see the fruits of their labor," he said.

The organic garden will offer space for 150 participants, 60 of whom have already signed on. Plots – which come with prepared, composted soil – range from 32 square feet for a \$30 annual fee to 56 square feet for \$45.

No gardening experience is required to enjoy the project. Plots are raised so minimal bending is necessary. This makes the garden

user-friendly for the elderly and disabled, Merritt said.

Gardens are cared for by community members, and classes and education on planting, irrigation, soil preparation, diseases and more are provided. Extra food is donated to charity.

Community gardening lifts people's spirits, teaches self-reliance, cuts grocery bills and improves the aesthetic look of neighborhoods, Merritt said.

Mickey Bauer, who lives adjacent to one of the plots, said she has always been a gardener but has had trouble growing vegetables since moving to the desert climate.

When she learned that the community-garden project would teach her which crops to plant at what time of year, she signed on.

"I already know that the first two things I want are tomatoes and beans," she said. "I just can't wait to eat a tomato off the vine."

*By Natalie Singer*

Excerpt and photo from *The Desert Sun*

# Good-bye, good Friend

1922 - 2000

We lost our good friend Roy "Eric" Erickson on May 31 of this year.

Mr. Erickson was a man of many talents, from piloting navy fighters in World War II to achieving international recognition as an illustrator and interior designer.

His hobbies were as diverse as his professional skills, and in recent years he became quite expert at raising vegetables in his Hydroponic-equipped greenhouse [see the "Foothill Hydroponics Newsletter" #6, Spring 1999, for a complete article by Mr. Erickson].

Mr. Erickson was a beloved husband and father, and our good, good friend. We will always miss him.



Roy D. "Eric" Erickson

Foothill Hydroponics proudly supplies materials to many educational institutional customers. Here are some highlights:

**Downey High School** was the recent recipient of a \$6000 science education grant. The money will be used to add environmental controls to the existing greenhouse, and to set up professional-quality Hydroponic systems inside the greenhouse.

**The San Miguel Math/Science Center** in Southgate, California, ordered Oasis growing media and Xtra-Edge Hydroponic nutrients for the Hydroponic experiments they conduct there.

**The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District** ordered a horticultural spectrum Metal Halide garden lamp, and Xtra-Edge nutrients, along with rockwool growing media, for their pilot Hydroponic garden project. We hope it goes well!

**Cornell University Educational Resources Program** recently ordered a quantity of the classroom Hydroponic Plant Factory hooks written by Brown, Krelle and Tam, as part of the excellent Hydroponic science curriculum they provide to teachers.

**Wards Natural Science Center**, in West Henrietta, New York, is now retailing the Hydromax Jr. Mini Ebb and Flow/NFT system as part of a vast array of learning tools devoted to the study of the natural sciences.

# We get letters!



Dear Sir,

We constructed our hot house ourselves, in the '50s—also our beds. Checked all the beds for sale and decided to make our own [made of] fiberglass and resin.

They are all automatic. The top bed holds aggregate, the lower one holds food.



We have raised most everything in our hot house. The cauliflower was raised there, and many other good vegetables.

I got started late this year, but am catching up. It's the only way to go for food—we have too much "wildlife" to grow it any other way. It's great to have a hot house!

Sincerely, Ida Wise, Tujunga, California.



Dear Foothill Hydroponics,

Thank you and your partners for a wonderful day of learning and getting started with Hydroponics. I was thrilled to be a part of this workshop and seminar.

The morning went fine, but by the afternoon, some of the terminology was over my head . . . by the time you do this again next year I'll be right up there with you.

I am writing several grants to study Hydroponics on a school-wide basis. We can study Hydroponics and gain all of the state and national standards in one topic.

I would like to come by one day, so until then . . .

Sincerely and with respect,  
Sheila Clapkin, Calvert Street School



Dear Mohsen,

My husband and I would like to thank you for inviting us to attend the excellent seminar on hydroponics.

The speakers were interesting and informative. We also appreciated the publications and free samples.

Now that we are enthused again, we shall be in to purchase more supplies.

Sincerely,  
Shelley and Harvey Smith, Granada Hills



Dear Mr. Daha,

On behalf of the Partnership for Agriculture and Science in Education (PASE), I want to extend a special thank-you for your agency's participation as an exhibitor at the "A Garden in Every School" conference, which was held on May 1, 1999 at North Hollywood High School.

The conference was a great success, with an attendance of approximately 375. We received positive feedback regarding the workshops, exhibits, speakers, and prizes from the teachers, parents, administrators and community leaders that attended the conference.

The conference was successful because of your agency's participation. Thank you for your continued support of agricultural education and outreach.

Sincerely, Marilyn Chenault, PASE

Dear Mr. Daha,

I wanted to thank you for all your help in getting us ready for our Hydroponics science fair project.

Also, I want to thank you for giving us the Foothill Hydroponics brochures. They were a big help. Not only did they give ideas for our display board, but they also gave us information.

Partly because of your help we won first place in life science for the 7th grade, and we got a trophy and a blue ribbon.

I enclose a picture of our display board and trophy, as well as a copy of a brochure which we prepared to go along with our project to show other kids who want to do a science project involving hydroponics.

Once again, thanks for all your help.

Sincerely yours, Parke Walton,  
North Hollywood



## Heavy metal??

*[Excerpted from Ag. Research Magazine]*

Phytoremediation is the use of green plants to remove pollutants from the environment or render them harmless.

According to plant physiologist Leon V. Kochian, certain plants can be used to "vacuum" heavy metals from the soil.

"Certain plant species—known as metal hyperaccumulators—have the ability to extract elements from the soil and concentrate them in the easily harvested plant stems, shoots, and leaves," he said.

"These plant tissues can be collected, reduced in volume, and stored for later use."

While acting as vacuum cleaners, the unique plants must be able to tolerate and survive high levels of heavy metals in soils—like zinc, cadmium, and nickel.

**TO READ THIS FASCINATING  
ARTICLE IN DETAIL, SEE THE  
JUNE 2000 ISSUE OF *AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH MAGAZINE!***

