

# Local greenhouses see potential

## Project focuses on small scale produce alternatives

By June Williams  
Emerald Contributor

Two small greenhouses tucked away in South Eugene may have a large impact on the community food supply — once the community finds them, that is.

The greenhouses were started as an alternative to large agribusiness produce. Douglass Moser, who began the Community Supported Agriculture project last October, hopes the program will become popular in Eugene. This would eliminate buying through a retail food chain, he said.

"Ultimately we'd like to work directly with the consumer," said Vince Devoto, one of Moser's helpers on the project.

"That would eliminate the middleman. It would still be more expensive than Safeway, but less than Sundance," he said.

Devoto said the fledgling program will sell its produce, which is a mixture of salad greens, to local food stores until the business is more publicized.

"We deliver about 60 pounds of salad a week to Sundance, The Kiva, Friendly's Foods and New Frontier Market," Devoto said.

"That's only a small portion of the greenhouse. For awhile, we could have picked 70 pounds a day, but there just wasn't a market for it," he said.

Although the produce is still connected to agribusiness, "it's local and you don't have to use a whole lot of gas to ship it around," Devoto said.

"Our aim is to work with the people who are going to eat it," Moser said. "That's why we're not certified organic. That would allow the food to be



Photo by Sean Poston  
4-year-old Jack Richardson helps Vincet Devoto at one of the community-supported agriculture greenhouses in South Eugene.

shipped anywhere. We want to know where the food is going.

"Every time I hear about a new organic farm in places like the Salinas (Calif.) Valley, I laugh. What about all the pesticides in the ground water? What about all the air pollution?"

Moser believes in small interaction, such as using five acres instead of 500. "One of the reasons I started this thing was because I don't like large scale," Moser said. That includes America's large-scale diet.

"People have to change their eating habits," he said. Moser sees humans as a giant herd of buffalo stampeding toward a cliff. Only the ones outside the

herd won't be swept over the edge.

"For awhile I wanted to save humanity. Now I'm content to work with the ones on the edge," he said.

Neither Moser nor Devoto know how their project will turn out.

Moser said much work remains to be done in order to make community-supported agriculture a reality.

"One of the reasons why I started this greenhouse was so I could learn," he said.

"There's so much potential here. Some people have told me it may take six months, others say as much as three years," Devoto said.



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