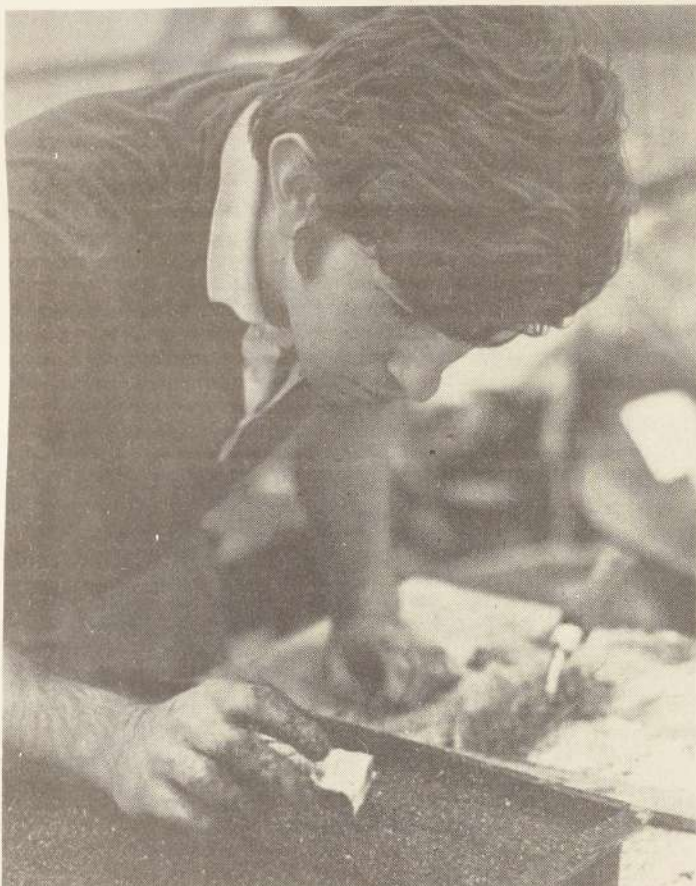


# Educational ideas bloom under instructor's nurturing



Linda Corbett waters plants in the horticulture departments greenhouses. Corbett, a second year student, is a teaching assistant this year and has conducted a workshop on houseplants and some community education classes.



Photos by Sam Baer

A student prepares seed boxes. Later these seedlings will be transplanted into flower beds around Clairmont to provide color and beauty during the summer months.

By Happie Thacker  
Of The Print

Spring is here and a young man's thoughts turn to -- planting. At least they do if that young man is Horticulture Instructor Phil Evans.

In the two years Evans has been at the College, he has made many improvements to the grounds around Clairmont where the horticulture department is located.

Last year he arranged for the school to have an All American Selection display garden to grow and display the best new varieties of flowers and vegetables that hybridizers have developed.

These hybridizers, or plant breeders, send their seeds to a non-profit organization which tests them and awards ribbons to the best ones.



Phil Evans . . . horticulture instructor with dreams

"The All American Selection committee really appreciates our efforts to publicize these plants," said Evans. "We'd like to have the public see these grounds as an educational place to come and see these new varieties. They should be blooming in late June or July."

Another educational display Evans has started is a planting of different varieties of lawn grass.

These different grasses are planted next to the greenhouses so the public can see them growing before planting a lawn.

"I had lots of dreams for this area," Evans said, "but I'm having trouble getting it accomplished."

One of the reasons for this trouble is his desire to emphasize individual choice among his horticulture students.

"By having a program oriented around student interests, we do a little of this and a little of that," Evans said.

Evans would like to plant experimental vegetable gardens that would give people a chance to see new varieties of vegetables as they are developed.

"But instruction comes first," Evans said, "there's not much point in forcing vegetable gardening on people that aren't interested."

According to Evans most of his students are interested in landscaping rather than gardening.

About half of them have their own land and want nursery or greenhouse operations and the rest are interested in landscape design, he said.

Wages for those in landscaping range from \$3.50 to \$5.50 or \$7.50 per hour while nursery workers get only minimum wages.

"The wages aren't as high as, say, a truck driver or a warehouseman," Evans said, "but if

you like the life then it's worth it."

There are also opportunities for starting one's own part-time business with a minimum investment, according to Evans.

Another thing that keeps Evans from completing his plans for the grounds around Clairmont is his recruiting program.

He has been going to schools in the area and has plans to go to the state FFA convention March 20 and 22.

"We'd like to have 10 more students enrolled each fall," Evans said.

In order to compensate for the lack of students interested in his planting programs, Evans has been using work study students.

"Now that I'm not trying to finish everything from one class period to the next, but letting work study students finish what the class starts, I'm getting a lot accomplished," he said.

"I would like to see more work study students who would like to establish vegetable and flower gardens. The number of work study students seems to be low during late spring and summer when we need them the most."

In spite of the lack of student help and the desire to teach his students what they want to learn, Evans has great plans. Evans hopes to accomplish quite a bit next term.

"By the end of school we want to get all the grass grass have all the roses budding, get the cut flower garden started, supply campus offices with flowers, get flowers planted in the beds, get the grass started in the arboretum and get the vegetable gardens planted," Evans said.

