



Photo by Kelly Laughlin

# Planting proves fun for those not afraid of dirt



## Bob Munly examines health of plants in greenhouse

By Kelly Laughlin  
Of The Print

Philodendron, horsehead, splitleaf, begonia and plenty of soil beneath the fingernails comprise the environment of nearly every horticulturalist.

Some like to speak of their plants while surrounded by the fertile smell of a greenhouse, while others would much rather sing the praises of root and leaf under dismal Oregon clouds.

Bob Munly, student in Ornamental Horticulture Practicum class, has just received a plot of plants to take care of in the greenhouse. A retiree, Munly calls planting "just plain fun."

"I'm learning how to do things that plants appreciate, and hope that they will do well as a result," Munly said.

Currently, some of the students are getting ready to

replant many of their plants outdoors. Don Nelson, another student, is getting the outdoor soil ready for planting. "Right now I'm just hoeing and cleaning so they can move their plants outside," he said.

Nelson's wife, Colleen, also a student, can't wait to move her marigolds outdoors. She seeded them on Jan. 11 and they have since become her pride and joy. "The fascinating thing about plants is that they grow and change so fast, much faster than I had suspected they would," Mrs. Nelson, who has completed her third horticulture class, said.

Mrs. Nelson ironically got started in green-thumbing with the death of her daughter, Susan.

"Susan was always a green thumb. She could make anything grow, and had never taken any classes in gardening. Some people are just born with it," she said.

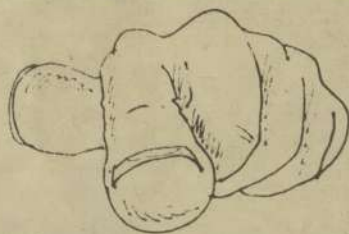
Mrs. Nelson now believes that a green thumb can be developed, but that having an artistic knack is also essential.

"You have to like arrangement, color, design and most of all, have a lot of initiative." She said that a person really gets into plant growing, it puts them in touch with themselves and nature.

But Mrs. Nelson's efforts in horticulture are not purely philosophical. She plans to start a business with her husband bidding for nurseries constructed outside the confines of establishments. "We would do the landscaping and planting and receive a good share of money for our efforts," she said.

But for now, it's sift and toil until Mrs. Nelson's is complete.

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