

Clubhouse gardeners are growing more than just flowers, trees, shrubs and ground covers. Their work together displays team work and cooperation.



Terry Buchen photo

A different kind of garden delight

By TERRY BUCHEN

NEW ALBANY, Ohio — Teamwork is a continual objective of Tony Mancuso of the New Albany Country Club here. It is reflected in almost every aspect of his golf course maintenance operation down to the most minute important detail. A great example of the team concept is how Mancuso and the club's



ON THE GREEN

chef created an in-house herb and lettuce garden.

"We had some already irrigated landscape space available adjacent to our receiving area at the clubhouse," said Mancuso, "and we used it for our new garden facility."

The 13- by 60-foot herb and lettuce garden, with a wall of handmade bricks protecting it from view, is overseen by horticulturist John Hornor, who is charge of all of the trees, shrubs, ground cover and flowers at the clubhouse.

"Our culinary herb garden," Hornor said, "uses raised beds, which is a majority of basil, French tarragon and lots of chives where we add rosemary, oregano, chervil and thyme, to name a few, when they are needed. They are all seeded except the French tarragon, which is propagated for better quality."

The lettuce garden portion contains 20 different type lettuces and greens, such as parsley and romaine lettuce, Hornor said, while different red- and green-colored lettuces are grown for show and color on the food plate.

Edible flowers, such as calendula and violas, are grown for show and color which is also evident during the dining experience.

"We use only organic fertilizers and no pesticides," Hornor said. "If we do get any pests they usually are insects who pick out one variety of lettuce and we let them feast so they will not touch any of the other types of lettuces and greens. It is a great natural IPM [Integrated Pest Management] concept."

New Albany Country Club has a second nursery that is comprised not only of trees and shrubs but raised herb-and-lettuce beds as well.

"We also have some wooden box mini-beds with an even better quality soil mix for the ultimate growing medium," Hornor said.

"Our department has horticulture intern students and the clubhouse has culinary interns who compare notes to learn from each other the fine art of growing quality herbs, lettuces and greens."

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University of Fla. appoints Cisar

Dr. John Cisar has been appointed turfgrass coordinator at the University of Florida.

The appointment culminates a two-year search, initiated by industry's desire to see the UF turf program rise to a level consistent with the state's huge golf and turf interests.

Cisar has been a turf researcher at the UF/IFAS research station in Ft. Lauderdale for about 12 years, working on such ground-breaking projects as the USGA-funded pesticide leaching study.