

Strawberry Fields Forever -- For Kids

Posted by [Steve Bender](#), October 16, 2010 in [Fruits and Veggies](#) , [Public Gardens](#)

Did you know that vegetable gardening can reduce the school drop-out rate and gang activity, while also teaching kids where vegetables actually come from and also the importance of fresh vegetables in their diet? A vegetable garden in East Dallas is doing just that.

I know you'd like to see it, so let me take you down to.....



This is the [Promise of Peace Garden](#), located at 7446 E. Grand in East Dallas. Young students work with planters and plants donated by [Burpee Home Gardens](#). Here are a few of them grooming the strawberry plants that appear in the first photo.



Grumpy recently toured the garden, courtesy of the Burpee people, and was very impressed with what he saw. Though he only had a half-hour to spend, his magic camera will take you on a tour as well.



Students grow a little bit of everything in both raised beds and elevated planting boxes. They maintain their own gardens and are very proud of the things they grow. So if you know what's good for you, don't mess with David's kitchen garden!





Of course, just because you're growing vegetables doesn't mean you can't grow other things. Below is a plot dedicated to growing plants that attract and feed butterflies.



Colorful signs abound in the Promise of Peace Garden, seemingly influenced by legendary rock songs of the 1960's and 1970's.



I can hear John Lennon now. "Imagine there's no aphids. It's easy if you try. No clay below us. Above us only sky."
But you don't grow okra like this just to eat now. You have to think of the harvest next year, so...



...students dry some of the harvested okra pods to save seeds for planting next spring.

Water is always a precious commodity in a vegetable garden. In a state like Texas that typically experiences hot, dry summers, harvesting rainwater that runs off the garden shed (below) makes sense. And saved water is free water. More and more people (like where the Grump lives in Birmingham, AL) are realizing just how much watering plants can cost.



Next, let's take a look inside the garden shed reveals a message board where gardeners can communicate with others and tell them what's going on in their particular gardens.



Start A Garden Where You Live

The Promise of Peace Garden flourishes as a recipient of plants, supplies, and expertise from Burpee Home Gardens' "I Can Grow" program. "We've had more than 3,000 people visit the garden this summer," says Elizabeth Dry, the executive director of the Promise of Peace Garden. "Gardening is a simple solution. It brings you back to the earth, and

the kids learn from it. They're learning lessons about the economic and nutritional value of growing and even cooking their own food."

Burpee Home Gardens is now taking applications for the 2011 "I Can Grow" Youth Garden Award. Winning schools and community programs will be awarded up to 500 vegetable and herb plants and \$2,500 in garden supplies, as well as on-site assistance in design and installation. To apply, visit www.burpeehomegardens.com and download the application.

I know one person who's definitely going to apply. *There's a lady who's sure all that glitters is gold, and she's buying the...*



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