Recent survey shows that larger numbers of Americans are gardening in small places

More Americans are gardening in smaller spaces than ever before, according to the National Gardening Association, based in Burlington, Vermont.

The non-profit, member-supported gardening organization sponsors a national survey that each year quantifies gardening in America.

According to the National Gardening Survey, the size of the typical home vegetable garden of America's gardening households has decreased in the last three years, averaging about 400 square feet in size compared with 600 square feet in the first three years of the '80s.

At the same time, some 10 million households that do not have a vegetable garden are growing some food in containers, on patios and rooftops, in windowboxes and in border plantings.

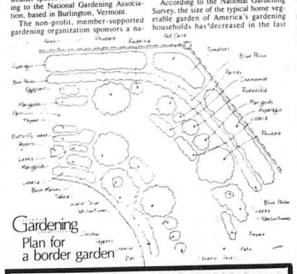
"With the right planning, information and plant varieties, gardeners are finding they can grow some vegetables and flowers even if they don't have back yard space," said Charles Scott, president of the National Gardening Association.

"Our experts here have developed a plan for a border garden that can provide a lot of harvest from a very small space," he said.

"Gardeners can use this border garden to mix 16 nutritious, tasty food crops including asparagus, rhubarb, peppers, melons, tomatoes, eggplant, herbs and others, within a beautiful flower border of nasturtiums, phlox, marigolds and lobelia."

This new garden plan is just one of the special features being offered in the monthly magazine, *National Gardening*.

A sample copy of *National Gardening* magazine is available by sending $1 to cover postage and handling to the National Gardening Association, Dept. AC, 180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401.



Gardening Plan for a border garden

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Spring into comfortable, stylish shoes this season

Spring is a time of renewal. It's a season of new beginnings, when flowers bloom and love blossoms. And it's the season to reward yourself and break out that trendy spring wardrobe.

It's also the time to stow away those winter boots and slip into comfortable spring footwear. This season, fashionable women can select their footwear from a number of styles that are bound to appeal to all tastes.

Comfort and style important

"The hot directions this spring offer comfort and style," said Steve Grossman, a buyer for Kinney Shoes. "Today's woman wants to look smart and feel comfortable.

"Leather dress flats, fringed moccasins and loafers, with crocodile or snakeskin prints, are some of the more popular styles this spring," Mr. Grossman said. The dress flats, which complement any wardrobe, come in a variety of styles.

"Popular colors this season include ice, turquoise, fuchsia, yellow, gold and silver," Mr. Grossman said. "Pastel colors are also popular this spring," he added.

Boots now for all seasons

Exotic leathers, especially crocodile, ostrich and lizard, continue to be a hot look in classic Western boots for spring for men and women.

New fresh fashion colors in boots include Sailor Blue, Blush Pink and Cherry Red, and new neutrals such as Winter White, Peanut Brittle and Redwood.

For women, long skirt silhouettes will dominate, with Western boots completing the leg look, whether the skirt is pleated, or full from the calf to ballerina length.

Completing the look

Still prominent is the "Out of Africa" look for men and women, highlighted by bush jackets, animal and native prints, and safari skirts. Western boots with elephant skin, boa and watersnake add the final exotic touch.

Denim continues to be a strong look, with indigo, wash denim, and bleached white and jet black surfacing in dresses, jeans, jackets and skirts. The all-American denim look is completed by Western boots in patriotic colors of red, white or blue.

New Western boot styles for men include more conservative calfskin looks, with simple, wing-tip designs that are appropriate for business attire.

"We'll be seeing both conservative styles and very unusual designs in classic Western boots for spring," according to Barbara Lewis, spokesperson for the Western Boot Council of America.

"Western boots are American classics that never go out of style; a pair of high quality, handcrafted leather boots can last for years and can be worn through every season."

Decorated denim resurfaces as fashion

The current resurgence in the popularity of decorating good old basic denim is bringing out some of the hottest, most imaginative and downright zany forms of fashion self-expression in years. And the revival is widespread.

There is a lot that can be done to denim. Some of the most impressive examples have come from more than 85 top fashion designers and artists, including Yves St. Laurent, Kenzo, Hermes, Andy Warhol and Keith Haring.

They each took a century-old American classic — a Levi's denim jacket — and created one-of-a-kind wearable art, all of which was auctioned off recently at a charity fund-raising event.

The creations included glittery and elegant evening looks with sparkling rhinestones, sea pearls, fur, suede and leather trim; jackets with floral appliques, quilted silk linings and silver stud work; colorful back-of-the-jacket artwork; and, in the outrageous category, a bolero jacket with fir tree sleeves and holly wreath scarf. Madonna, one of several celebrity models, wore a multi-colored design by Martin Burgoyne.

You don't have to be a fashion leader or an accomplished artist to get into the act.

Virtually anyone can dress up their denim easily and inexpensively, and many people nationwide are doing just that. You can see it on urban streets, college campuses, prime time TV shows and even among the fashion-forward social set.

For a free brochure on decorating denim tips write: Jazz Up Your Levi's Blues, Department A, P.O. Box 6761, Concord, CA 94520.

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