

Jefferson MONTICELLO

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JEFFERSON'S 1813 GARDEN COMES TO LIFE IN 2013

One of the first questions visitors ask when visiting Monticello's vegetable garden is, "Did Jefferson grow this when he lived here?"

Two hundred years ago, Jefferson planted vegetables and crops that many farmers do not cultivate today, such as marshmallow, horehound, lemon balm, and warted cymlin—a squash that is believed to now be extinct.

In celebration of Jefferson's vegetable garden, Monticello gardeners are telling the story of Jefferson's 1813



garden through what they've planted and by engaging visitors in special tours.

Jefferson's 1,000-foot-long garden terrace was divided into 24 squares. These two acres of land were dedicated to new and exotic vegetables such as the tomato as well as traditional vegetables such as Jefferson's favorite, peas, to help sustain the large family living at Monticello.

Looking at Jefferson's comprehensive Garden Book, Monticello gardeners can outline which plants Jefferson sowed and brought to table each year.

Jefferson planted hotspur peas on March 29, 1813, in square one, the eastern end of the kitchen garden closest to Jefferson's gravesite. In square one on February 18 and 25, 2013, the garden staff planted blue pod peas, a pea similar to the hotspur peas.

Wooden stakes in front of each row will identify the name of the vegetable and the date Jefferson sowed it.

Three special squares have been dedicated to economic crops enslaved men and women grew in the fields surrounding Monticello, including cotton, flax, tobacco, corn, and potatoes. While these plants were not originally planted in the kitchen garden, they help tell a story of

those who labored in the fields. Next to the economic crops, two squares will be devoted to a special children's garden, part of Monticello's new Garden Explorers' program. Families participate in the program by planting fruits and vegetables.



Meet
**STEVE
BENDER** aka
“THE GRUMPY
GARDENER”



**Heritage Harvest Festival
at Monticello
Featured Speaker**

SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

Otherwise known as “The Grumpy Gardner,” *Southern Living* Senior Writer Steve Bender’s life mission is to make gardening uplifting, accessible, and inspirational to all. His humorous columns in *Southern Living* and online at “The Daily South” (thedailysouth.southernliving.com) often do just that.