

Dirt between your Toes



Living in a farming community has its advantages. Friends and neighbors often stop by and give us loads of fresh vegetables just picked from their gardens. Such gifts include potatoes, onions, beets, lettuce, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, and carrots.

It wasn't long before we decided to try our hand at it on a small scale. We say "small" because the farmers here work acres of land and invest thousands of dollars on their crops. We borrowed some land from a neighbor and planted one packet of broccoli seeds. After a month the sprouts, which were planted 3 inches apart, were ready to be transplanted. We then put fertilizer into pre-made holes and planted the sprouts about a foot apart. They were sprayed with insecticide and watered regularly. Next month we hope to eat some home-grown broccoli. But we won't eat all of it. The crop should yield around 2,000 stalks of broccoli! We plan to sell most of it and give the proceeds to the neighbor who let us use his land. Altogether, the process takes 3-4 months and cost us \$12 dollars for seeds, fertilizer, and insecticide. Even if we only get one stalk of broccoli the process has been fun – getting out in the fields, feeling the dirt between your toes, and working the earth like the majority of the world has been doing for thousands of years. Unfortunately we don't have the time to maintain a garden of any substantial size. To be honest, the man who owns the field has done the lion's share of the work. But we have been inspired to start a small garden in front of our house. Currently we are watching tomatoes, cilantro, strawberries, a grape vine, bell peppers, green beans, and broccoli grow....