

There are many less expensive filters. The earth filters described in *Nuclear War Survival Skills* are free and more effective than most commercial units. These filters are for water *after* you emerge from shelter. Stored water *must* be in each shelter for use during occupancy. Do not worry about contaminated water. With a little knowledge, this is not a problem. Without knowledge, of course, it can be a serious threat.

GARDENING

Gardening is still popular with many Americans, although it is just a hobby for most. Many raise plants for decorative rather than practical value. It is amusing to see people jogging to stay physically fit, while they hire others to do their gardening.

Gardening would become considerably more than a hobby for many Americans for several years in a post-attack environment. It requires skill and practical knowledge related to one's particular climate.

Following an attack, resumption of about 10% of America's grain and bean production and perhaps 2% of her transportation system would provide sufficient amounts of staple foods to prevent starvation for 200 million people. Fresh vegetables, however, would probably need to be locally grown for a long time.

Those with a little land to garden would probably raise food for themselves and for others who lack garden space. In theory everyone could go out on the vast land areas around the cities and garden. In fact most would have neither the skill nor the resources to do so.

If you have a place to garden, it is a good idea to become serious about it. Regardless of the intensity of fallout, your land would grow nutritious, safe food within a short time. As soon as it is safe for you to be outside, the soil would be safe to use. In some areas there would be high residual radiation, but this would not be life-threatening except as a small increased long-term disease risk. You could scrape off a few inches of soil to improve matters, but this would usually not be essential.

Now is the time to learn gardening skills for use in a post-attack environment. If you do not do this now, it is very unlikely that you will be able to garden in a crisis.

First, try to secure an independent water supply. If there is a pond, creek, or spring nearby, be prepared to use it. It need not be on your private property. In a food crisis your