

A photograph of a well-maintained garden. In the foreground, there are several raised garden beds made of light-colored wood, filled with various plants including leafy greens, purple flowers, and yellow flowers. A stone path leads from the foreground towards the background. On the left side, there is a white greenhouse with a transparent cover. In the background, a wooden fence and a house are visible. The overall scene is vibrant and green.

The Garden

The Garden is...

Bryant Olsen July 2009



A congregation of individuals called to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are life-long learners influencing others to serve.



Josh Oct 2013

Your congregation is like a garden!

**The Va. Conf.
Board of
Discipleship
assumes that
each
congregation
is unique within
a unique
locality.**



RUTH HARTNUP JUNE 2012



What does your Church look like to others?



Gardeners Are Deeply Formed Spiritual Leaders



Gardeners Balance the Garden Soil



pluckytree Dec 2010

Gardeners Plant Seeds





Gardeners

Nourish

the

Garden

Gardeners Tend the Garden



Gardeners Grow the Garden



Gardeners Face Garden Challenges



Gardeners Maintain the Garden



**Planting
seeds
in the
wrong
place
will
impact
growth!**



**Planting
seeds
among
thorns
will
impact
growth!**



**Planting
seeds
that
birds
steal
will
impact
growth!**



John Bird eating seed Aug 26 2014

**Planting in
good soil
will impact
growth!**

**It makes a
difference!**





**Where
will
you
plant
your
seeds?**

**The VA Conference UMC Board of
Discipleship wants to help each congregation
become a fruitful garden!**



Informational Seed Packets are coming soon from the VA Conf. Board of Discipleship!



Seed Packet Topics include...



The Garden

*Gardeners Are Deeply
Formed Spiritual Leaders*

Gardeners Plant Seeds

Informational Seed
Packets are coming soon
from the VA Conf. Board
of Discipleship



Gardeners Tend the Garden

Gardeners Balance the Garden Soil

Gardeners Grow the Garden

Informational Seed Packets are
coming soon from the VA Conf. Board
of Discipleship



Gardeners Face Challenges to Gardening

Gardeners Nourish the Garden



Informational Seed
Packets are coming soon
from the VA Conf. Board
of Discipleship

Gardeners Maintain the Garden



Cooking Up a Story March 6 2008

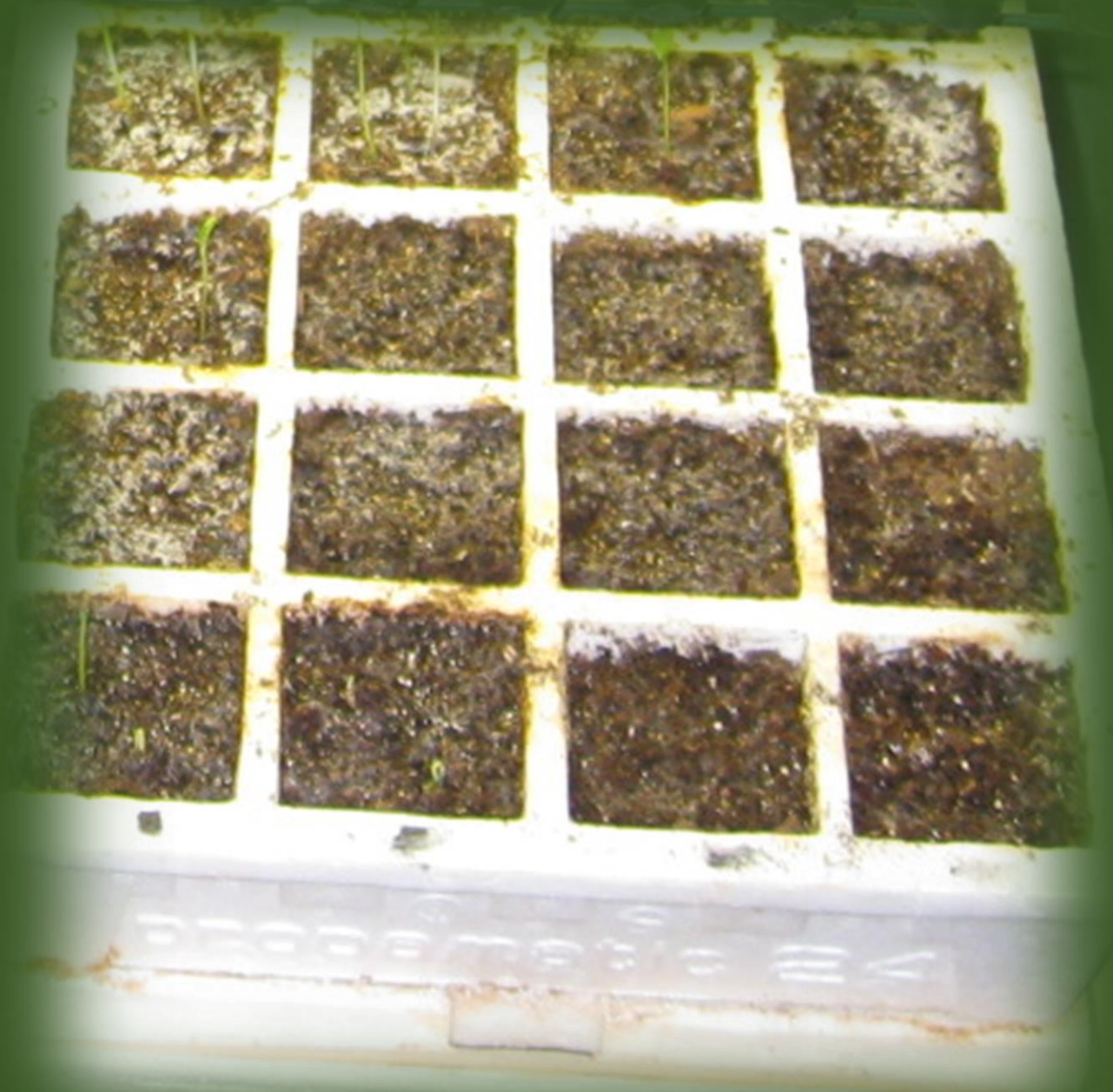
Sow...

the
seeds



SOW...

**the
seeds**



GROW...

**from
seedlings
to
plants**



GROW...


**from
plants
to fruit**



SHOW...

**the fruits of
your
discipleship
so more
seeds are
sown!**





¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Matthew 7:16 NLT

**Thy
Word is
like a
garden,
Lord,
with
flowers
bright
and fair!**

Crystal Hogan

