

# JUST PLAINS FOLKS

## Watching garden growing

Art Scherbenske has green thumb

**T**UTTLE — Mayor Art Scherbenske likes to garden in a big way. So big in fact, that his garden plot is 50 by 300 feet. "It used to be 60 feet wide, but that was too big," says Art.

Art began gardening 12 years ago as a hobby. It started small and just kept getting bigger.

The garden is tucked in a field alongside a small lake Art named for his wife, Lynora, and contains 20 different vegetables. There are more than 200 pepper plants, 70 tomato plants, eight rows of cucumbers and 32 rows of potatoes.

"Keep the hoe and tiller busy," Art advises. "A garden will not grow unless you have it tilled and weeded. I don't mind chopping weeds."

Art does have help with keeping his 15,000 square feet weeded. Son Alan shares his father's horticultural interests.

Father and son spend at least 1½ to 2 hours a day tending the garden, but consider it a retreat from the everyday stresses of life. They agree that what they enjoy most is the peacefulness. "There's no phone out here," says Alan.

Art irrigates out of the lake. His irrigation system includes a gas-powered pump, a network of hoses and 14 sprinklers. "When the sprinklers are on it looks like a big rainbow," says Art.

Produce from the garden provides Art and Lynora, sons Alan and Steve, daughter Linda and their families. Art shares with other family members and friends, as well.

Though Art and Alan do most of the work in the garden, harvesting and preserving the vegetables usually falls to Lynora and Alan's wife, Barb.



By MARCIA SCHERBENSKE for the Tribune

*Art Scherbenske likes the solitude of gardening.*

Onions are Art's favorite. He likes them best in sandwiches made with fresh bread. "There's nothing like it," he says. Last year he harvested some onions that weighed 2½ pounds each.

Alan shares some gardening philosophy: "You've heard of the saying, 'A marriage is like a

garden, it takes lots of tender loving care.' You can turn that around: A garden is like a marriage, it takes lots of tender loving care."

"It's something I like to do", says Art. "Some days you can come out here and almost see things grow."