
March 27, 2009

LETTER; A Garden for the Obamas

To the Editor:

Re "Obama to Eat Local Produce (Really Local)" (front page, March 20):

The Obamas' organic vegetable and herb garden will result in several things: First, the Obamas, along with the countless others inspired to plant their own organic gardens, will be eating fresher, tastier, better for the environment, healthier food while saving money at the same time.

They will experience one of the most powerful ways of connecting with, and developing a love for, the natural world, an experience that has been largely lost to modern society. And they will contribute to reducing our country's greenhouse gas emissions, as less produce would need to be shipped great distances.

But as one who grows heirloom apples in central Massachusetts, I would encourage the Obamas to make a more permanent imprint on the White House lawn as well, by planting an orchard. Shouldn't our president's home be graced with America's first named apple (the Roxbury Russett, from the 1630s), Washington's favorite apple (the Newtown Pippin) and Jefferson's (the Esopus Spitzenburg)? Is there anything more American or more beautiful than an apple orchard?

Of course, because apple trees take years before they begin to bear fruit, it will be necessary for the Obamas to be in residence for more than one term so that they will be able to reap what they have so wisely sown.

Eric Chivian
Boston, March 21, 2009

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