



It's Never too Late to Learn

Linda Palmer and her husband Gary both grew up in and around Iosco County and both grew up gardening. But it was the WISEWOMAN Entrepreneurial Gardening Program and a visit to 3rd Day Farm (a WISEWOMAN supported cooperative farm and education center) that grew their gardening efforts.

Linda was part of the first

WISEWOMAN gardening class at 3rd Day Farm. "It was my first year with the WISEWOMAN Program," said Linda. "I learned so much! About seed saving, how to win against all the pests and critters and about all the different varieties of fruits and vegetables I didn't even know about – like green striped tomatoes."

"One day they made a salad. It had all kinds of different things I would have never thought to put in a one. It was so good. I'll be making salads very differently from now on."

During the classes at 3rd Day, Linda seeded her own plants in soil blocks. 3rd Day tended the plants for the class participants and when they returned for the second class

they had starter plants. "The tomato and cucumber seeds I planted had become good size plants," said Linda. "I just couldn't believe how beautiful they were."

This year Linda's 50 square foot garden also produced horseradish, corn, onions, watermelon, squash, pumpkins, green beans, beets, cabbage, cauliflower and



broccoli. “I’ve never grown such a variety.”

One of Linda’s favorite culinary adventures in the gardening program was a canning class. “It was such a cool class.” Although she had canned in the past, Linda was pleased to learn about the new and different canning guidelines. “They gave us a book that covers freezing and

pickling. I can’t wait to try that,” she said.

Linda also attended the WISEWOMAN annual gardening conference held this past year in Roscommon.

“I especially liked the session on container gardeners. For the first time I got herbs to grow in containers and to come up the next year.”

With the help of her

husband and grandson, Linda’s garden produced plenty of extra. “I like to take stuff from the garden to work. The cardiac rehab patients I give it to are so grateful.”

But her favorite way to share her extra bounty is with family. “It feels good to be able give my family things I know will help them be healthy.”

Next year’s plans include

fencing and a hoophouse.

“All the information and help from WISEWOMAN has been wonderful. Just wish I had known about it sooner, when I was younger.”