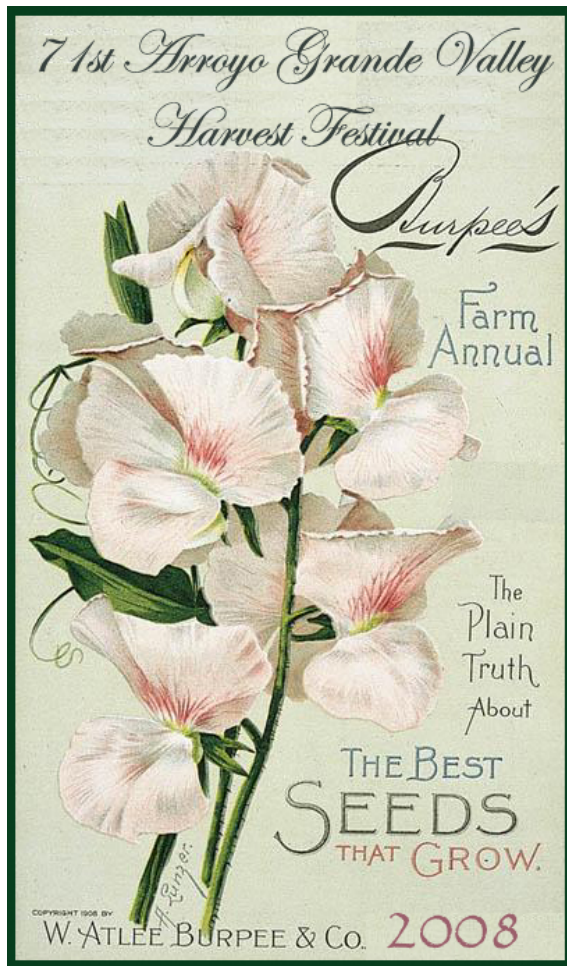


Arroyo Grande Valley Harvest Festival Growing Contest

It's time to start planting those flower and vegetable seeds for the 71st Annual Arroyo



Grande Valley Harvest Festival. This year's theme, "Planting The Seeds of Our Future" is kicked off by this year's Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Contests! These traditional contests from the early days of the Harvest Festival have returned for 2008 and everyone is invited to participate.

In 1976 the Burpee Seed Company issued a catalogue commemorating their 100th Anniversary by featuring a reproduction of their 1888 seed catalogue. Arroyo Grande Farmers were featured in the catalogue because they won many cash prizes for their outstanding vegetables and flowers. "At the turn of the century the prolific soils in Arroyo Grande Valley produced prize winning bumper crops of cabbages, carrots, beans, peas, pumpkins, onions, flowers and other crops," local Historian Doris Olsen wrote in the Santa Maria Times. "The local farmers won so many cash awards that they boasted they were the only valley in the world by reason of its prolific soil to be

barred from the national seed contest." (The Arroyo Grande Farmers were banned to participate so others would have a chance to win, however they were given a lifetime achievement award.)

But.... You are not barred from the growing contests! All ages are encouraged to join in and compete by bringing their largest apples, ugliest melons, heaviest tomatoes, heirloom fruits and vegetables and their most beautiful cut flowers to be judged by members of the Woman's Club of Arroyo Grande, Harvest Festival Officials and the Festival's Grand Marshal on September 27th. Categories will include, children, adults, seniors and a separate category for commercial growers.

We have the Greatest Soil in the World, so let's see what we can grow!

For more information on the Harvest Festival visit www.agharvestfestival.com or email any questions to info@agharvestfestival.com