

Devoto Gardens

FARMERS: Stan, Susan, Christina, Jolie, and Cecily Devoto

FARMLAND: 20 acres in Sebastopol, about 60 miles to the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market.

PRODUCTS: Spitzenberg and Pink Pearl apples, persimmons, seasonal flowers, and greens

FARM HISTORY/PHILOSOPHY: Susan and Stan Devoto started the farm 25 years ago with 2.5 acres of apples. They gradually expanded into lettuce, greens, and flowers. "We grow every stem of every bunch and every piece of fruit with care towards sustaining our employees, family, and farm. We only pick what is ready and ripe and are committed to providing our customers with the highest quality. We are proud to be part of CUESA and of California agriculture."

SOIL: Gold Ridge Loam is built with compost, cover crops, and crop stubble. The soil is fertilized with synthetic and organic fertilizers, i.e., aged manure, raw organic matter, and compost.

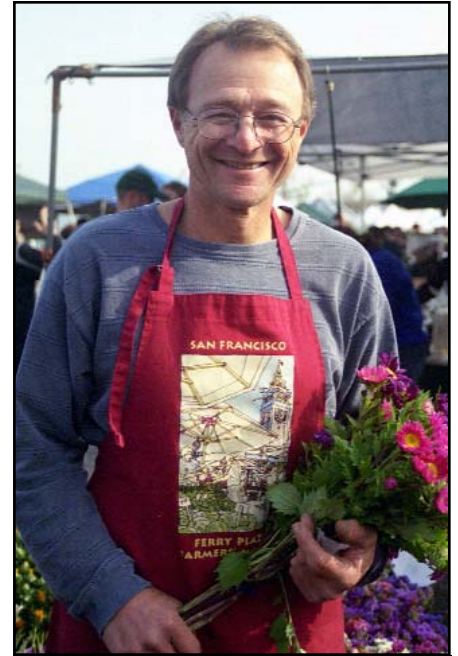
WEED CONTROL: Hand and machine cultivation

PEST MANAGEMENT: Integrated Pest Management including: release of beneficials, habitat creation for beneficials, application of synthetic and organic pesticides, and pheromone disruption. Use of resistant varieties and crop rotation control diseases.

WATER USE: The apples are dry farmed, and the flowers are irrigated with well water via drip lines. The organic acreage is irrigated with tertiary-treated recycled water from the City of Santa Rosa.

WORKERS: 3 full-time employees year-round, and 18 full-time seasonal workers between April and December. Devoto Gardens provides housing and offers benefits to its workers.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION: None.



Stan Devoto has been farming for 25 years

A project of CUESA

the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture