

## **George Wilburn 107 Quincy Box 16**

George Wilburn of Towanda runs a U\*Pick operation in Towanda, IL. George grows Indian and Asian vegetables such as tindora luffa gourd, Curry leaf, lemon grass and taro - among others. He runs a 5 acre plot of garden.

Most of his business is by "word of mouth", he says. He operates his business out of his Garden Market.

People come here from all over, George says. He gets a lot of Chinese and Indian customers, because what he grows isn't on the list of many growers and so his demand for produce is usually pretty good.

George tries to supply what his customers want. He gets much of his seed from a company called Evergreen Y.H. Enterprises in Anaheim, California. Some seeds, such as bitter melon sell for as much as \$160 a pound.

With the help of his wife Helen, and some of his grandchildren, they save on labor costs and employment insurance.

August, September and October are his busiest months. He has two small greenhouses, and one of them doubles as their store during the selling season.

Some crops are grown on trellises; they may grow to be 30 to 40 feet long. George says it's a sociological experience, and he enjoys meeting new friends along the way.