

COLOR THE GARDEN

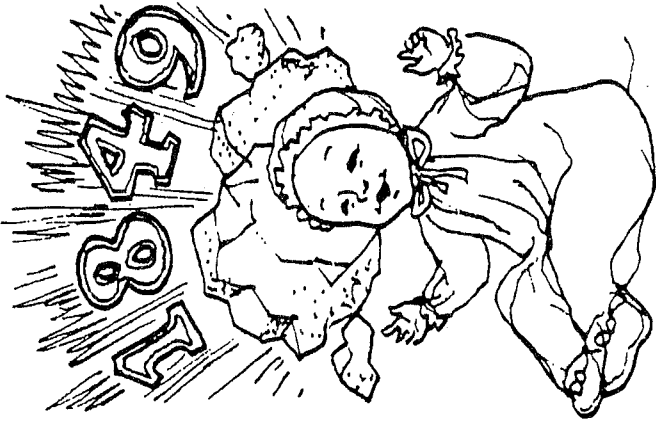


LUTHERBANK BURBANK

*The Man Who Could
Make A Flower*

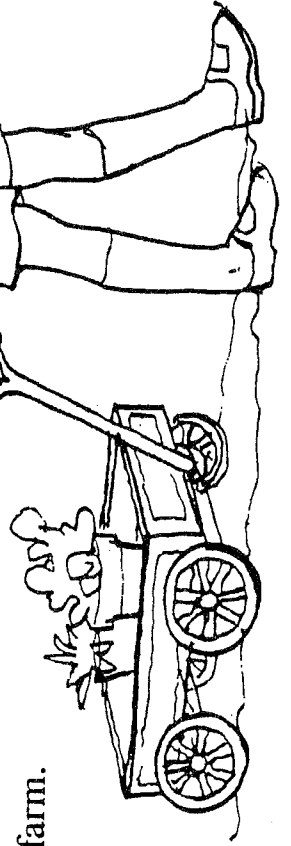


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In 1849 people were rushing to California to look for gold. In Massachusetts something special happened too — Luther Burbank was born! Now Californians celebrate Arbor Day on his birthday, March 7th.

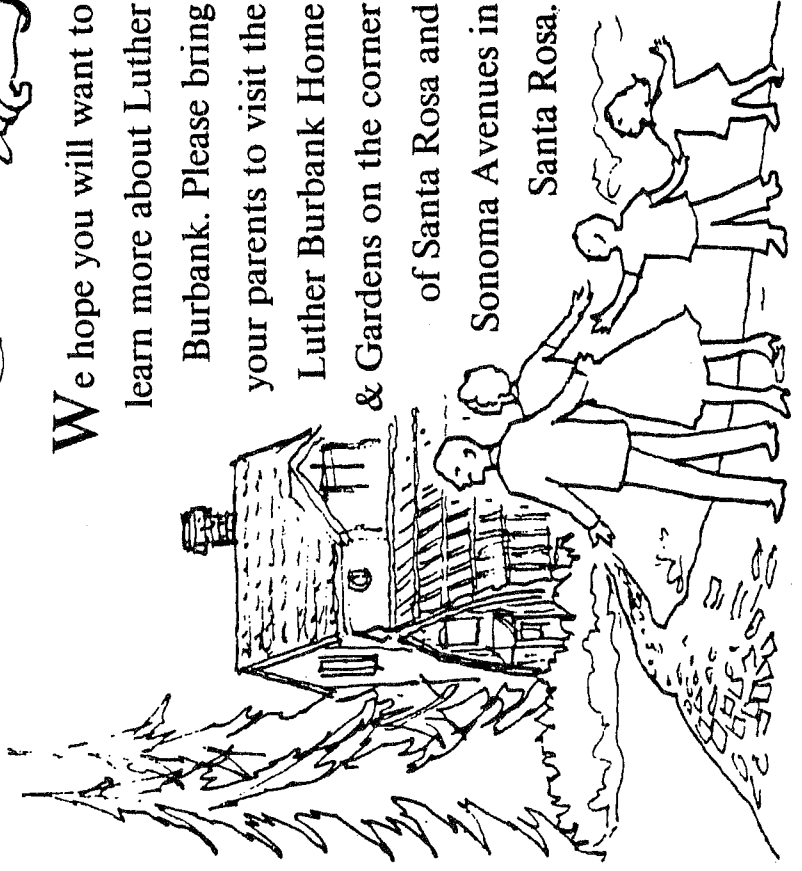
Do you have a pet? When Luther Burbank was a little boy his pet was a cactus plant! He was very interested in plants and spent lots of time learning about them on his family's farm.



We remember him today because of the wonderful things he did with plants. Because of him other people became interested in working with plants. Thanks to Mr. Burbank we all enjoy better fruits, vegetables and flowers.

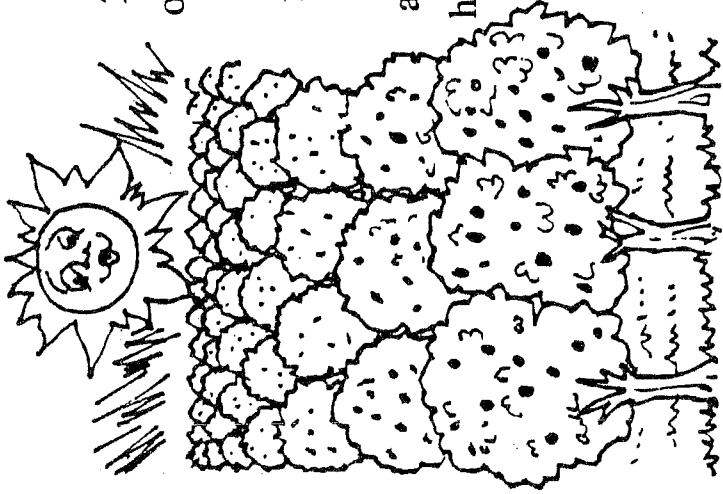


We hope you will want to learn more about Luther Burbank. Please bring your parents to visit the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens on the corner of Santa Rosa and Sonoma Avenues in Santa Rosa.



This success made Luther Burbank decide to spend his life working to create new plants. He made up his mind to go to California to work where the climate was warmer and better for growing plants.

He came to California in 1875 after a nine day trip on the train. He settled in Sonoma County and wrote to his mother that "this is the chosen spot of all the Earth as far as nature is concerned."

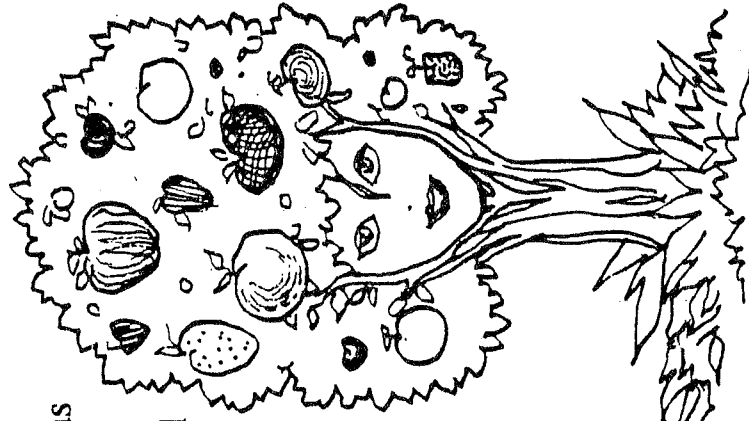


He was able to grow 20,000 little prune trees or seedlings in only nine months for a rancher named Warren Dutton. This made him famous and people began to call him the "Plant Wizard!" Thomas Edison and Henry Ford and many other important people came to visit him.

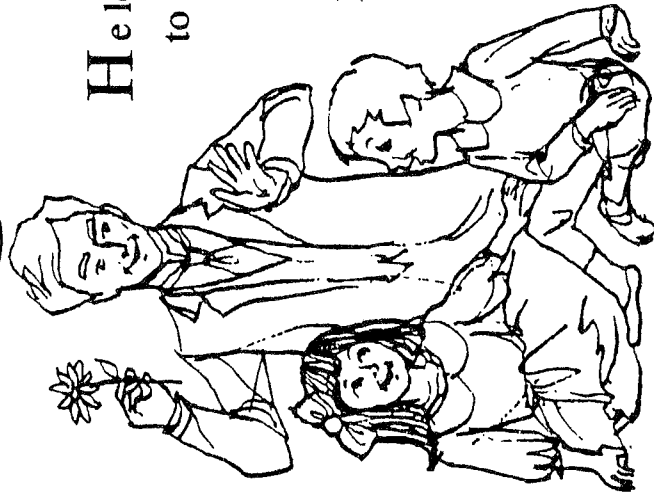
He worked very hard to create over 800 new fruits, vegetable and flowers. He grew thousands of plants of each kind and picked the ones that he wanted to be parents of the next generation. Sometimes they were very different from the plants he started with.



A trick he used to speed up results with fruit trees was to join new seedlings to a "mother" tree. This is called grafting. This way the seedling could produce fruit in one or two years instead of waiting five or ten years to grow up. Sometimes the mother trees had 200 different seedlings grafted onto them!



He loved children and liked to turn somersaults on his lawn for them. He was very shy and hated making speeches. Once he told a group of people he could "make them a flower but not a speech!"



When he grew up he decided to earn his living by raising fruits and vegetables to sell. One day he made an important discovery. He found some potato seeds in a ball on one of his potato plants. Usually these plants didn't produce seeds because people made new plants by cutting out a part of the potato called the eye and planting it.

With these rare seeds Luther Burbank was able to develop a different kind of potato. It was named the Burbank seedling. Today it is used as a baking potato. McDonald's Restaurants use it to make french fries!

