

# Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

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## Monticello has place in White House garden

THE RECENTLY planted White House Kitchen Garden has a distinct Monticello flavor.

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation donated historic seeds and plants cultivated at Monticello for the 1,100-square-foot, four-season herb, fruit, and vegetable garden located on the west side of the White House's South Lawn.

The plantings, placed in a special section of the garden devoted to Thomas Jefferson, include Brown Dutch and Tennis-ball lettuce, Choux de Milan Savoy cabbage, and Prickly-seeded spinach. There's also a Marseilles

fig, planted in a raised bed with mint, from Monticello's Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants.

"They were among Jefferson's favorites," said Peter Hatch, Monticello director of gardens and grounds. "There's this really profound Jefferson legacy for not only gardening but also the promotion of local food and New Age cuisine in the president's house."

Prior to the April 9 planting of the garden, Sam Kass, the White House's assistant chef and coordinator of the food initiative, visited Monticello to confer with Hatch about the plants and gain inspiration from Jefferson's Vegetable Garden. Hatch paid a return visit to the White House on April 29. "Everybody is excited about the garden," said Kass, who directs the tending of the L-shaped plot with Dale Haney, the White House's grounds superintendent.

First lady Michelle Obama, who planted the first seedlings with the assistance of fifth-graders from a Washington elementary school, expressed some of her feelings about the garden to the children of White House staffers during an April 23 event. After saying that her favorite part of the garden "is the row of herbs that



**A part of the White House Kitchen Garden is dedicated to Jefferson.**



**White House chef Sam Kass (left) with Monticello's Peter Hatch in Jefferson's Vegetable Garden.**

I personally planted," Mrs. Obama mentioned the "section from Thomas Jefferson's garden that I think is really cool, because we got some of the seedlings that were planted at Monticello."

Seeds for Brown Dutch and Tennis-ball lettuce, Prickly-seeded spinach, and numerous other plant varieties can be purchased online through the Web site [www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org).

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[newsletter@monticello.org](mailto:newsletter@monticello.org)