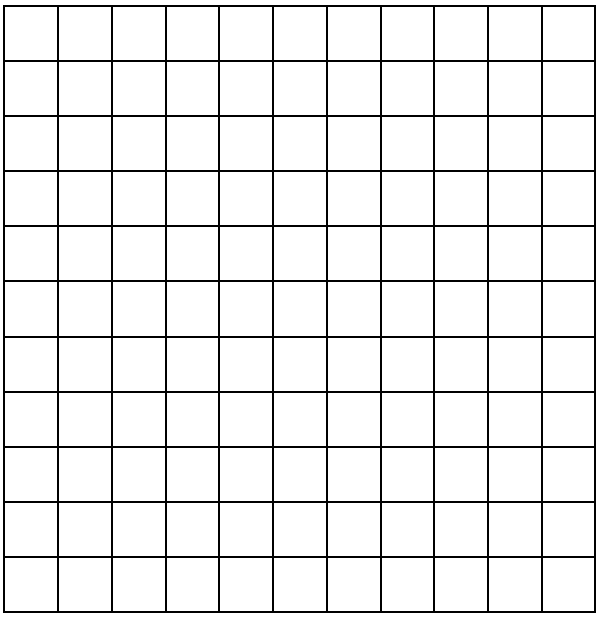
Puzzle # 83 – April 2008 "Food Chain"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to eight letters, and three are capitalized), then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Eleven words sharing a common theme should have only their first letters entered in the grid, the rest left out. I thank Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. Insect feeding initiated complaint
2. Truth about sexual activity
3. Battered red pot held aslant
4. George initially out of money for rent
5. Changing Rialto fashion
6. Duke takes king's place in secure urban district
7. Finish one year with sweetie pie
8. Rage held back in pregnancy
9. Start to eat the Spanish fish
10. Clean 500 for Nixon's head in miniature
11. Kevin's ideal is keeping private
12. Food for *bon vivant*, maybe
13. Lunatic eating nothing but yuca
14. Salinger character lives in one's memory
15. Rap about author's propriety of behavior
16. Division of land without resistance
17. Fruit looks about right
18. Crazy to hit back
19. Small rate and volume
20. Crust formed around one kind of tree
21. Foolish to get up for one spot
22. Vile Sue plays hard-to-get
23. Homeric epic about grass
24. Form in plaster
25. Make-believe priest deceitfully enters error
26. Run away from crowds in succession
27. Eight from company left before holiday
28. Flavor small pastry with bit of clove

Down

1. Born dumb, forgets identity of organisms
2. Greasy cooking has me heading off for a source of water
3. Surf is humming with swimmers
4. Distress voiced about royal split
5. Fight ended with sorrow, in fact
6. Bum a ride before line is put off track
7. Stone tossed at bird
8. Fancy a meal with root vegetable
9. Ecstasy gets you finally for a break
10. God's face
11. Stir, simmer, add last of spice, and put in water
12. Goes in cleaned up and polished
13. Company nurse with old hat
14. It's our unhappy plaintiff
15. School work diminishes, by report
16. Winner making one error in course
17. I Musici's radio host
18. Our group flipped over fish, dear
19. Regret never having returned to sign up
20. Find bliss in credence
21. Super sick, died contracted
22. The editor has to listen
23. Start to tell everything? Not very likely
24. For example, girls superficially get urges
25. Mystery writer eats bun in tram
26. City girl's style