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HOME GARDENS IN WARTIME

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vegetables produced in spare time will make available, somewhere, man and woman hours for other purposes. Health is of first importance, and vegetables that are easily grown may furnish the necessary vitamins and minerals. Nutrition experts advise it is preferable to obtain vitamins from fresh fruits and vegetables, rather than resort to the indiscriminate use of synthetic preparations.

Unless conditions are reasonably favourable, a vegetable garden should not be undertaken; we cannot afford to waste seed, fertilizer, equipment and energy, unless location and soil are suitable and the gardener is determined to follow through to harvest and use.

This pamphlet is intended primarily for amateurs desiring to grow vegetables in their small back yards.

Soil Preparation

All plants thrive best in full sunshine, so avoid planting under trees. Spread barnyard manure over the soil, and dig thoroughly. Rake down until a good tilth is obtained. Do not sow seeds or set out plants until the soil is free. Use a bright hoe or spade, and when the soil leaves the hoe freely, then plant early crops.

Under war conditions, conservation of vegetable seeds is imperative, as many are difficult to obtain. Follow the directions laid down for each crop; this will prevent waste. Spacing of plants is stated for each variety. To save seed, empty package into a saucer and sow by hand.

Cultivation

In cultivating the garden, a fork, hoe, and a five-tooth hand cultivator are the most suitable tools to use. Cultivate often to destroy weeds, maintain moisture, and allow air circulation to the root system. Use care when cultivating, so as not to cause injury to the plants, as injury often produces diseases.

Tomatoes, celery, cauliflower, cabbage, onions and squash do not require hoeing when near maturity, as roots may be injured. Remove any weeds by hand-pulling.

INDIVIDUAL CROPS

Beans. May be planted in continuous rows, 20″ apart in the row. Plant to a depth of 3″. Use the corner of a hoe to open the furrows.

EARLY VARIETIES—Golden Wax, Round Pod Wax or Green. Sow early varieties May 5th.

LATE VARIETIES—Bountiful, Refugee. Sow in June, July, August.

Do not cultivate or pick beans when vines are wet.

Beets. Sow seeds 1″ deep and 1″ apart for early crop. Rows 15″ apart.

EARLY VARIETY—Crosbys Flat Egyptian. Sow early crop when soil is ready for use.

LATE VARIETY—Detroit Dark Red. Sow, for late crop, June 25th to July 5th.

If preferred, Detroit Dark Red may be used for early sowing.

Cabbage. Space plants for early crop 15″ apart in the row, and 24″ between rows.

EARLY VARIETIES—Golden Acre, Jersey Wakefield. Plant early as possible, when soil is ready.

LATE VARIETIES—Penn State Ball Head, Danish Ball Head. Late planting—July 1st to July 12th. Space late varieties 20″ apart by 24″ between rows.

Carrots. Sow seeds 1″ deep, using seeds carefully. When plants are 1″ high, for early crop, thin to ½″ apart.

Early crop, sow in late April or early May.

For late crop, and for winter use, sow from June 25th to July 5th.

VARIETIES—Scarlet Nantes, Coreless Chautenay, Danvers Half Long. Any of these varieties may be planted for early or late crop.

Corn. Plant in hills 2′ by 2′, and place seed 2″ deep; 6 seeds to a hill.

EARLY VARIETIES—Golden Bantam, Golden Sunshine. For early crop, sow seed May 5th.

LATE VARIETIES—Evergreen Bantam, Joana Hybrid. For late sowing, sow not later than June 15th.

Cucumber. On light sand soil, plant seed on the level of the ground. On heavy soils, it is advisable to raise the seed bed a few inches above the level. This allows drainage and warms the earth quicker in spring. Space hills 5′ apart, and when plants are 3″ high, remove the weakest, leaving 3 plants to a hill. Sow 6 seeds to a hill, allowing for poor germination.

VARIETIES—White Spine, Straight 8, Early Fortune.

Lettuce. Sow seed 8″ apart for head lettuce; make a shallow hole ¼″ deep and cover over and firm soil on the seeds. When 2″ high, remove all but one plant; this enables the plant to obtain food to make a proper head.

VARIETY OF HEAD LETTUCE—New York 12. Sow when soil is ready in spring, and at intervals of 30 days until August 20th.

VARIETY OF LEAF LETTUCE—Grand Rapids. In using leaf lettuce, sow every 3″ as above.

Onions. Sow seeds 1″ deep in rows, and thin to 2″. Use all surplus onions for table use as salads. Clay or black loams are best suited for onion culture. Sow seeds from April 25th to May 5th. Space rows 18″ apart.

FOR EARLY USE—sow Silver King.

FOR LATE CROP OR WINTER USE—sow Yellow Globe Danvers.

Peas. May be sown very early, in rows 3″ deep, and the rows 15″ apart.

EARLY VARIETIES—Little Gem, Little Marvel.

Peas may be sown every month until August 5th.

LATE VARIETIES—Laxtonia, Peter Pan, Telephone.

Potatoes. Plant sets 4″ deep, 12″ apart in rows, 24″ between rows. Best weight for sets—2 ozs.

EARLY VARIETIES—Irish Cobbler, Warba. Plant at end of April or early May.

LATE VARIETIES—Chippewa, Katahdin, Dooley. Plant not later than June 15th.

Radish. Sow in rows, or broadcast, 1″ deep, and firm the soil after planting. Sow every two weeks for sweet and tender radishes.

VARIETIES—Scarlet White Tip, French Breakfast, Scarlet Globe, White Icicle.

Tomatoes. Secure plants from grower or the store when possible. When planting, make a hole deep enough to cover the roots. *Do not plant deep.*

If tomatoes are grown on stakes, use a stake 1¼″ diameter, 5½′ long. Drive in ground 10″, and space 2′ by 2′ apart.

PRUNING—Tie plants to stake, which will require attention every seven days. Cut or pinch off all side shoots, leaving only the main stem. When 5 sets of fruit are on the plant, cut off the terminal bud, but *do not* cut off the leaves. This advances maturity.

Plant June 1st to 5th.

CHOICE VARIETIES FOR STAKING—Suttons Best of All, Harkness, Bonnie Best.

FOR TRAILING—Bonnie Best, John Baer, Pritchard.

Swiss Chard. Sow seeds in May, 10″ apart in the row and 1″ deep. When leaves are ready for use, they are available until late fall.

VARIETIES—Silver, Lucullus.

Watering the Garden

If required, water during the evening; this allows the plants to drain and absorb the moisture before the sun can burn or cause scalding of the leaves.

For lettuce, pour the water direct on the soil around the plant, but not on the leaves.

When watering, wet the soil thoroughly, and not too often.

Transplanting

When transplanting cabbage, cauliflower and tomatoes, be sure they are made firm before leaving. Loose planting often means loss.

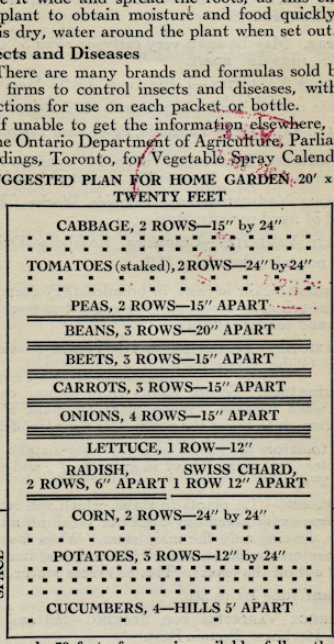
Do not plant too deep, and when making a hole, make it wide and spread the roots, as this enables the plant to obtain moisture and food quickly. If soil is dry, water around the plant when set out.

Insects and Diseases

There are many brands and formulas sold by all seed firms to control insects and diseases, with full directions for use on each packet or bottle.

If unable to get the information elsewhere, write to the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, for Vegetable Spray Calendar.

SUGGESTED PLAN FOR HOME GARDEN 20′ x 30′



Where only 30 feet of space is available, follow the plan as outlined for this distance. Then if further space can be used, add the additional vegetables as shown.