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EC1211 Revised 1933 The Farm Vegetable Garden

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Hoppert, E. H., "EC1211 Revised 1933 The Farm Vegetable Garden" (1933). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 2476.
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No. 1216

Revised Feb 1940

Nebraska
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

Extension Circular 1216

Farm Vegetable Garden Pointers

The vegetables, peas, onions, spinach, radishes, lettuce, cabbage, beets, kohlrabi, are the ones that have given the greatest returns in recent years provided they were planted early. The reasons are:

1. Long-time weather records show that Nebraska can expect cool, moist weather in late April, throughout May and early June. The above crops if planted early, are developing to maturity during the most favorable period. Thus the yield is greater and in addition is better in quality.

2. Grasshoppers, lice, and many other insects are much worse after June 15 than they are before that time. In 1937 and 1938 many early gardens were harvested before these insects made their appearance in large numbers.

3. Most weeds develop more slowly in cool weather than do the vegetables. It really is easier to grow early vegetables than late ones. That is why the enthusiasm for gardening is greater during the spring than it is in the heat of the summer.

What is meant by early planting? The actual date for early planting varies with the season and the region of the state. In the southern half of the state peas, radishes, spinach, lettuce and onions should be planted by the middle of March every year, and the others mentioned above plus potatoes, carrots, parsnips, and salsify should be planted by April 10th. In the northern half of the state the planting date would be 5 to 15 days later in most years.

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Seed Treatments for Diseases. Diseases like bacterial spot of tomatoes, blackleg of cabbage and black scurf (rhizoctonia) of potatoes, frequently cause heavy losses. They are carried on the seed and are controlled by seed treatment.

General Treatment. Semesan is safe and effective for most seed borne diseases. The dust and seeds are placed in a small stoppered bottle and shaken around until the seeds are thoroughly coated.

For bacterial spot of tomatoes dissolve one (1) corrosive sublimate tablet in 3 pints of water in a glass container. Place the tomato seeds in a small cloth sack and suspend in the solution for 5 minutes. Rinse seeds in clear water, then spread them out to dry before planting.

Potatoes. Plant disease-free seed, preferably state certified. Treat the seed with Semesan Bel before cutting. For 50 bushels of seed, dissolve 1 pound Semesan Bel in $7\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of water. It is merely necessary to wet the surface of the tubers (no prolonged submersion necessary). For 25 bushels of seed use $\frac{1}{2}$ pound Semesan Bel to $3\frac{3}{4}$ gallons water.

Disease-resistant varieties. Where the soil is infected with diseases like tomato wilt or cabbage yellows, either use a new plot of ground known to be disease free or use varieties resistant to these diseases. See variety list.

Starting Early Plants

Earliness is important with such vegetables as tomatoes, cabbage, peppers, head lettuce, egg plant, etc. If fairly good-sized well-rooted plants of these crops are transplanted into the garden when the weather is suitable for their development they will come into production much more quickly and the yield from them is likely to

be greater than where the seeds are planted directly into the garden. Many people buy all of their early plants. The cost in this case is much greater than when they are grown at home. Then, too, some of these plants are imported from the south and with them come diseases like tomato wilt to add to our difficulties.

There are two common methods used in growing plants at home, the hotbed method and the indoor flat and cold frame method. Hotbeds are heated, sash-covered frames. The heat is supplied by a coal oil stove, cobs, coal, electricity, or by fermenting manure. If you are interested in building one write your home agent for the circular on hotbeds. The plant requirements for the average farm family can be supplied by one flat or window box supplemented with a cold frame. The flat or window box should be 3 inches deep, about 18 inches wide and just long enough to fit into a south window of the house. The box is filled to within 1/2 inch of the top with a mixture of 1/3 garden loam, 1/3 well-rotted manure and 1/3 sand, all of which have been sifted through a coarse screen before mixing.

Damping off is a disease that attacks young seedlings, particularly when they are over watered. The fungus that causes the disease is present in the soil. Care in watering and ventilation usually prevent serious losses, but to be doubly sure the soil should be treated before the seeds are planted. Perhaps the easiest way to treat the soil is to place the flat with the soil in it in a warm oven for 2 or 3 hours or it may be placed on the back of the cook stove for 2 or 3 days. Another method is to mix up 2½ tablespoonfuls of concentrated formaldehyde in 1½ cups of water and sprinkle this over the soil. Then cover with a wet cloth over night.

The seeds are sown 4 or 5 to the inch, in rows 2 inches apart at a depth not to exceed 1/4 inch. After the seeds have been covered, the soil is pressed down firmly over them with a piece of lath or narrow board. The flat is watered lightly every day or two until the seeds germinate. When one or two leaves have been formed in addition to the two seed leaves, the young seedlings should be transplanted into other flats or directly into the cold frame. Most people who have tried both methods prefer to transplant into small flats rather than into the soil within the cold frame. The transplanting can be done in the house and the filled flats carried to the cold frame and later the flats are carried to the garden and the transfer of plants made with a minimum of labor and shock to the transplants.

The cold frame is merely a wood frame about 6 x 6 feet. The front side is 8 to 10 inches high and the back about 2 feet high. It is placed on the south side of the house or some other convenient building. Straw or strawy manure is packed around the frame to its very top and out about 3 feet on all sides. The top is covered with two 3 x 6 ft. glass sash or a 6 x 6 ft. muslin or glass cloth sash. On cold stormy nights the top should be covered with old blankets or sacks to give additional protection from freezing. It is advisable to "harden off" plants before transplanting to the garden. The usual method is to withhold water from them for a week or ten days and to increase the ventilation. If the plants are in flats, the flats are set outside the cold frame a day or two prior to transplanting.

For the vicinity of Lincoln, cabbage, cauliflower and head lettuce should be started by February 20th so that they may be ready for transplanting into the garden by March 20 to 30. Tomatoes, peppers, and egg plants should be started by March 15th to be ready for the garden by May 15 to 20.

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VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES FOR THE HOME GARDEN

Tests conducted at Lincoln, North Platte, and Scottsbluff Experiment Stations indicate that the following varieties are outstanding and can be generally recommended.

Beans — Burpee's Stringless Greenpod
Landreth's Stringless Greenpod
Golden Wax-waxpodded-bush bean
Great Northern-white field bean for dry beans
Henderson Bush Lima

Beets — Detroit Dark Red

Cabbage — Early-Golden Acre - very early
Copenhagen Market
Late-Danish Ballhead - for storage
Late Flat Dutch

Where the disease called Yellows is prevalent in the soil use Yellows-resistant cabbage varieties such as
Jersey Queen and Marion Market - for early
Wisconsin Ballhead - for late and storage

Carrots-Chantenny and Nantes

Chinese Cabbage Pe-Tsai plant in late August for fall

Cucumbers - Chicago Pickling - for pickles
Arlington White Spine for slicing

Egg Plant - Black Beauty

Kohlrabi - White Vienna

Lettuce Loose leaf type - Black Seeded Simpson head type-
Costerg - New York Improved - Iceberg

Muskmelons - Emerald Gem - Pollock - Osage

Onions - for seeding outdoors in March and early April
Yellow Globe Danvers
Riverside-Sweet Spanish type for transplanting -
Prizetaker - Yellow Bermuda

Parsnip - Hollow Crown

Peas — Alaska - smooth - very early
Gradus Wrinkled - medium early

Peppers — Chinese Giant - Sunnybrook

Potatoes — (Irish) - Warba - Plant only a few for early use.
Irish Cobbler - Early Ohio
Triumph - primarily for Western Nebraska.

Use certified seed, treat seed before cutting.

Radish — French Breakfast - Scarlet Turnip for early use.
White Strasberg - White Icicle - Summer varieties

Rutabaga - Purple Top - Yellow

Spinach - King of Denmark - Bloomsdale Long Standing
New Zealand - not true spinach, but excellent for greens August to September.

Squash — Early White Bush-Table Queen-Buttercup-Hubbard

Sweet Corn - Hybrids, Marcross-Gold Cross
Open Pollinated - Golden Bantam
Country Gentleman
Howling Mob

Sweet Potatoes - Nancy Hall - Red Bermuda

Tomatoes, most varieties fail to set fruit in hot weather.
Bison and All Red (very early) produce well even in hot weather if grown on fertile soil and plenty of moisture is available.
2nd Early-Earliana, Pritchard (wilt resistant) for fertile soils in East half and for thin soils in west half of Nebraska.
Mid Season - Bonny Best - Red Head - John Baer
Late - Marglobe - Rutgers - these and Mid Season tend to produce large vines and little fruit in hot weather when moisture is plentiful.

Turnips — White Milan - Purple Top

Watermelons - Kleckly Sweet - Irish Grey.

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Plan for Vegetable Garden--100 x 150 Ft.

Permanent Vegetables	Asparagus				
	Herbs, Parsley	Rhubarb	Horse-radish	Winter onions	
		Salsify		Parsnips	
Plant April 1-15				Spinach	
	Lettuce			Radishes	Follow with beans
	Carrots			Beets	
	Turnips			Kohlrabi	
Date varies with season and section of state	Early cauliflower		Early cabbage	Swiss chard	
	Peas (Alaska)			Peas (Gradus)	
		Early potatoes			
		Onions (field-sown or sets)			
		Late cabbage			
		Peas (Telephone)			
	Beets			Carrots	Kohlrabi
Plant May 1-15		Sweet corn			
		Sweet corn			
		Wax beans			
		Green beans		Midseason cabbage	
		Tomatoes			
Transplant May 15-31	Egg plant		Sweet peppers		Cucumbers
	Kohlrabi			Rutabagas	
		Turnips			
Plant July 15-Aug. 1	Carrots				Beets
		Celery			
		Sweet corn			
		Sweet corn	Watermelons in corn		
Plant June 15		Sweet corn			
		Sweet corn			
	Summer squash		Winter squash	Muskmelon	

This plan is sufficient for a family of 5. For each additional member, add 30 feet to the length of the garden.

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