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## EC1216 Farm Vegetable Garden Pointers

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICSU. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating  
W. H. Brokaw, Director, LincolnExtension  
Circular  
1216Farm 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.

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, coals, 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 2 1/2 tablespoonfuls of concentrated formaldehyde in 1 1/2 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.



# 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-Chanteney 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 Chic  
Triumph - primarily for Western Nebraska.  
Use certified seed, treat seed before cutting.

Radish French Breakfast - Scarlet Turnip for early use.

White Strassberg - 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-Earlana, Fritchard (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.



# Plan for Vegetable Garden--100 x 150 Ft.

Permanent Vegetables	.....Asparagus.....	.....Horse-radish.....	.....Winter onions.....
	Herbs.....Rhubarb.....	.....Parsnips.....	
	Parsley.....	Salsify.....	
Plant April 1-15	.....Lettuce.....	.....Spinach.....	
	.....Carrots.....	.....Radishes.....	Fellow
Date varies with season and section of state	.....Turnips.....	.....Beets.....	with
	.....Early cauliflower.....	.....Kohlrabi.....	beans
	.....Peas (Alaska).....	.....Swiss chard.....	
	.....Early potatoes.....	.....Peas (Gradus).....	
	.....Onions (field-sown or sets).....		
	.....Late cabbage.....		
	.....Peas (Telephone).....		
Plant May 1-15	.....Beets.....	.....Carrots.....	.....Kohlrabi.....
	.....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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