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A MONTHLY SCHEDULE OF SUGGESTED OPERATIONS IN  
GROWING VEGETABLES FOR HOME USE

by

A. G. B. Bouquet - Horticulturist  
(Vegetable Crops)

Federal Cooperative Extension Service  
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A MONTHLY SCHEDULE OF SUGGESTED OPERATIONS IN  
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This circular comprises in summarized form the operations which can be carried out to advantage in the growing of a fairly complete line of vegetables in the home garden. The object of the publication is to suggest to the grower not only crops that should be planted, but also times at which they should be grown.

In view of the wide variations in climatic conditions prevailing in different parts of the state, it is well to consider that vegetables automatically group themselves into three groups, in so far as relation to climate is concerned, and these are tabulated as follows:

Vegetables tender to frost	No. days seed to 1st harvest (approx.)	Vegetables moderately hardy to frost	No. days seed to first harvest	Vegetables hardy to frost	No. days seed to first harvest
Asparagus plants*	2-3 years	Artichoke plants	1 year		
Rhubarb plants*	1 year	Beet	50-60	Brussels sprouts	125-135
Beans, bush	55-70	Carrot	75-90	Cabbage	85-150
Cucumber	60-70	Cauliflower	110-120	Cauliflower broccoli	275-300
Eggplant	100-120	Cabbage Chinese	80	French endive	110-120
Muskmelon	90-120	Chard, Swiss	60-75	Horseradish	110-120
Onion**	120-140	Celery	120-150	Kale	85-100
Pepper	90-110	Kohl-rabi	65-80	Mustard	60-70
Pumpkin+	60-140	Lettuce	85-90	Parsnip	120
Sweet corn	75-110	Pea	65-85	Rutabaga	90
Squash	100-120	Radish	30-40	Salsify	110-120
Tomato	90-110	Celeriac	110-120	Spinach	42-60
Watermelon	110-120	Turnip	60-80	Sprouting broccoli	90

\* Stalks                    + Summer Pumpkin, such as Zucchini, grows rapidly. Winter  
\*\* Bulbs                    Pumpkin takes full season.

The length of the frost-free season determines very largely when seeds of various crops should be sown or plants transplanted to the garden. The last frost in the spring and the first fall frost will have to be considered in this respect. It must be considered, too, that vegetables are likewise grouped into short or long season crops, which is an important factor, particularly if the season of a certain district has a comparatively short frost-free period. The short season vegetables include peas, spinach, lettuce, radish, turnips, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, early cabbage, Chinese cabbage, mustard, whereas the long season crops include tomatoes, parsnips, onions, egg plant, cucumber, salsify, peppers, melons, cauliflower, squash, pumpkins, broccoli, beans, sweet corn, celery, kale, Brussels sprouts, and late cabbage.

The schedule which is discussed in this circular will serve in general under conditions prevailing in the Willamette Valley and must be modified for other sections of the state.

No months in the year need be idle in so far as attention to vegetable growing matters is concerned. There are naturally some months of considerably more activity than others, but especial attention should be given to those times which are often considered to be inactive months.

#### January

Plan crops for either the home garden or commercial plantings. A study of references and bulletins or circulars pertaining to crops is timely. Seed catalogues are beginning to arrive and can be studied with profit. It is a good plan to order seeds in January so as to be sure to have them on hand when desired. Some growers order their fertilizer needs during this month, thereby getting a discount on prices. Tools that need to be repaired should be given attention. Early in January, the seed of greenhouse tomatoes should be sown, and during the latter part of the month onion seed for the transplanting of young onion plants in late March or early April. December and January are also good months in which to force rhubarb in the cellar or under benches in the greenhouse.

#### February

Forced rhubarb grown during January will be available during this month. If there are none available, hotbed and cold frame sashes should be obtained early this month and frames built to hold the same. Glass sash can be bought more cheaply than they can be homemade. Hotbeds of manure, hot air or electricity should be made up and started during February or the small greenhouse should be used for the starting of young plants. About February 1, the seed of early cabbage and lettuce should be sown. Celery seed may be sown the last part of the month. If the seed of early onions for transplanting was not sown in late January, it could be sown sometime during early February. Tomato plants should not be started from seed before the last part of this month or quite early in March. Plants for the spring crop of tomatoes under glass are set in the beds during February.

March:

If permissible, land should be prepared for the first outdoor seed sowings or transplantings. Rotted manure may be turned under the ground and also some complete fertilizer broadcasted over the area and lightly worked into the soil. Asparagus area should be disked and smoothed.

Cabbage and lettuce plants that were started during February will be ready for transplanting for the first time about 2 to 2½ weeks following seeding. In early March, sow seeds of tomato, celery, eggplant, pepper, and the second lot of lettuce and cabbage under glass. The early cabbage and lettuce plants that were started during the forepart of February will be large enough to be put in the cold frames and during March will be ready to be set out in the garden. Cauliflower seed for a summer crop should be sown during March. Early in March, tomato plants for a crop of greenhouse tomatoes are set in the beds. In the field, early plantings may be made of spinach, peas, onion sets, lettuce, radish and turnips. If the cauliflower-broccoli can be grown, this will be harvested during March. Also, the first pulling of rhubarb grown out of doors is made toward the latter part of this month. If new plantations of asparagus and rhubarb are to be made, the plants should be set out, if the soil permits, during the latter part of March. See special circulars on individual crops.

April

This is one of the months of greatest activity in vegetable planting. In the work with young plants, those of tomatoes, celery, eggplant, and pepper will be first transplanted about three to four weeks after seeding. In the field there will be second seedings of lettuce, peas and spinach, as well as first seedings of beets, carrots, chard, and kohlrabi. Toward the latter part of the month, the first lot of sweet corn may be planted as well as another sowing of lettuce seed. Cauliflower plants should be set out after frosts are over, and the first lot of tomato plants should be in the frames for hardening about the latter part of the month. One should have on hand some complete garden dust for early dusting of cabbage transplanted in March, and materials for the control of cutworms and slugs will have to be available in case of spring outbreaks. Peas are dusted with rotenone for control of weevils and aphids. (See Extension Bulletin 551).

Outdoor beds may be made up for making sowings of seed of late cabbage, cauliflower, kale, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

During late April the first spinach and rhubarb will be harvested and there will also be cuttings of asparagus. The last of the cauliflower-broccoli will be harvested in April. There will also be some new chard growing from the plants of the previous year.

Fertilizer applications by means of side dressings may be made to some of the early plants, such as early cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, peas, spinach, etc. Early celery plants are set out in the garden, preferably after the last frost.

May

Harvestings of asparagus and rhubarb continue and toward the end of the month are at the peak. There are also harvestings of the first spinach, green onions, radish and turnips, and at the last of the month first peas and head lettuce grown from early seedings or transplantings of lettuce plants in March.

In the field, plants of tomato, pepper, eggplant, and celery should be set out after frosts are over.

During May seedings are made of beans, sweet corn, melons, squash, cucumbers, pumpkins, parsnips, salsify, lettuce, and with of chicory. If the outdoor seed beds for late cabbage and allied crops were not made up in late April, they should be made in early May.

It will be necessary to use insect control material such as the All-in-One dust for various insects, such as aphis and green worms on cabbage and cauliflower. (See Ext. Bul. 551)

If there are timely rains, it may be desirable to side dress with fertilizer some plants such as pepper, eggplant, celery, tomato, squash, cucumber, etc. (See Extension Bulletin 524.)

Harvestings of greenhouse tomatoes usually begin in early May extending to the middle or last of July.

June

Harvestings continue of asparagus, rhubarb, peas, lettuce, spinach, and the first cuttings of early cabbage, and later on in the month, there will be harvestings of early carrots and beets.

In the field, there will be transplantings of plants of celery, fall cauliflower and cabbage; also seedings of late sweet corn, snap beans, lettuce for September, and late carrots and beets for fall and early winter.

It will probably be necessary to practice some insect control for such plants as tomato, eggplant, beans, cucumber, squash, cabbage, cauliflower, etc.

Irrigation of various crops will probably be necessary, depending upon weather conditions and rainfall.

July

Harvesting will occur of beets and carrots, the last lot of peas, summer cabbage, the first snap beans, summer cauliflower, lettuce, and the first lots of celery and tomatoes.

In the field there will be transplantings of plants of late celery, late cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, kale, and cauliflower; also seeding of fall lettuce and late beans.

It will probably be necessary to irrigate tomatoes, egg plants, peppers, melons, late carrots and beets, parsnips, late cabbage, etc. The latter crop, as well as other members of the cabbage family, must be dusted for aphis and green worms.

#### August

During this month, there will be harvestings of sweet corn, beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, early celery, summer cabbage, transplanted onions, and the first melons.

If possible, there should be seedings of Chinese cabbage, fall spinach, mustard, turnip, radish, and lettuce. The work of irrigation of any crops that need it should be continued, and also necessary dusting or spraying for insect control. (See Extension Bulletin 551)

#### September

Harvestings of all summer crops will be continued. Many crops will reach their peak during this month. The first lot of dry onions will be ready to pull and cure. Celery should be blanched for fall marketing. Squash and onions are harvested for later storage, as well as dry beans.

If frosts appear imminent, the plants of tender crops should be covered with protecting material such as sacks or burlap. If any ground is available and fall rains permit, a cover crop should be seeded on unplanted land.

If seedings of fall crops were not permissible in August, they should be seeded with the first fall rains of September.

#### October

Onions should be in storage, as well as squash and pumpkins, and also "green mature" tomatoes and peppers. October is the peak month for cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, sprouting broccoli, celery, lettuce, and spinach. Harvestings should also be made of fall turnips, Chinese cabbage, mustard, kale, late carrots and beans, parsnips, and salsify. Any land where vines have been frozen, such as of tomatoes, sweet corn, beans, squash, melons, should be cleaned up and fall plowed. Plants for a spring crop of cabbage may be transplanted as well as the seed of peas and lettuce sown.

#### November

There will be continued harvestings of late cabbage and allied crops, as well as celery, root crops, etc., as in October. Land which was not cleaned up in October should be completed and fall plowed or sown to a cover crop. Tomatoes and squash in storage should be looked over and sorted if necessary.

Manure and soil should be hauled for compostings under cover for the growing of young plants in the spring. Hot bed sash should be brought in for repair. Witloof chicory or French endive roots should be dug for forcing. In case of cold weather, root crops and cabbage may have to be stored.

December

Rhubarb should be dug and frozen for forcing. Hot bed sash should be repaired and painted. Bulletins or circulars on vegetable growing should be obtained. Plans should be made for crops and methods of cropping land in the following year. If bean or pea seed has recently been threshed, it should be fumigated for weevil control. Seed for greenhouse tomato crop is usually sown in late December.

Circulars on the growing of many of the above-mentioned crops are available from the Clerical Exchange, Corvallis, Oregon, and those desiring the same should write to this address. Note also the following:

The Home Vegetable Garden, Extension Bulletin 552; Growing Fall and Early Winter Vegetables, Extension Bulletin 487; Storage of Vegetables, Extension Circular 339; Vegetable Growing for 4-H Club Members, Club Series D-10; and individual circulars on various crops such as asparagus, rhubarb, globe artichoke, snap beans, green peas, sweet corn, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, celery, canning beets, cucumbers for pickles, Brussels sprouts, sweet corn, horseradish, lettuce, melons, onions, peas, peppers, squash and pumpkin, tomatoes, spinach, rhubarb growing, rhubarb forcing, hot bed construction, operation of cold frames, plant growing, insect control, etc.

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