

Oregon Agricultural College

Extension Service

PAUL V. MARIS

Director

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The Farm Vegetable Garden

By

A. G. B. BOUQUET

Horticulturist (Vegetable Gardening)

Purpose of Publication. This circular presents in concise tabular form information concerning planning and planting the farm vegetable garden. It does not relate to commercial vegetable production, but is designated to encourage more and better farm home gardens in the state.

Importance of Vegetable Products. Among the several food products raised on the farm, vegetables hold an important position and are entitled to greater consideration by the farmers of Oregon. There are at least 30 different kinds of vegetables which can be successfully grown in various parts of the state, thus affording a wide range of healthful, nutritious food. In addition to fresh vegetables obtainable from the garden, many crops can be canned, dried, pickled, or stored, thus providing an ample supply the year round. A well-planted garden, properly cared for, invariably results in reduced purchase of food not ordinarily produced on the farm.

Data obtained by Government and state experiment stations have shown that the vegetable garden area produces larger gross returns with less investment of time and money than any other part of the farm.

Many farmers are apt to underestimate the financial value of the vegetable garden area because the bulk of the produce goes to the family table instead of being actually converted by sales into dollars and cents.

Systematic work is as essential to success in the vegetable garden as in the regular care of the dairy, poultry, and stables. No garden will thrive and be satisfactory under irregular, inconsistent attention, any more than would a cow milked whenever the farmer took the notion.

Lay-out of the Garden. Inasmuch as the area selected by the gardener on each farm varies in length and width, no definite size of garden is here mentioned. In order to reduce labor costs by horse cultivation, however, the garden should be fully twice as long as it is broad, with the rows running lengthwise of the plot.

A total area of one-quarter of an acre or more would be furnished by a plot 50 by 200 feet, 70 by 150 feet, or some such proportion.

While a certain number of lineal feet of each vegetable is suggested in the plan, yet this is a variable factor according to the size and the preferences of each farm family. The figures, however, can be safely followed in most instances.

FARM GARDEN PLANTING TABLE

Showing Detailed Recommendations Arranged in Order of Planting, Beginning in the Spring.

Vegetable	Variety	Ft. of row or No. of plants	Date of seeding	Hills, drills or plants	Date of planting	Distances of planting		Amt. of seed per 100 ft.	Depth of planting in.	When maturing
						Rows in.	Plants in.			
Radish	Scarlet globe— white tipped. White Icicle	25-50	Mar. 10	D	Successive seedings	24	1	1 oz.	1	May and in succession
Spinach	Victoria, Longstanding	100	Mar. 10 Apr. 15	D		24	2-4	1 oz.	1	May 15- June 10
Lettuce	New York	3 doz.	Feb. 1-15	Hotbed	Apr. 10	24	10			June 1
Peas	Early Morn, American Wonder Laxtonian	200	Mar. 10- Apr. 25	D	Successive seedings	30	2-3	1 lb.	1½-2	June 10
Cabbage—early	Wakefield, Copenhagen Mkt.	4-5 doz.	Feb. 1-15	Hotbed	Mar. 25 Apr. 20	30	18, 24			June 30- Aug. 20
Onion (sets)	Danvers, Austral. Brown	50-75			Mar. 10 Apr. 10	24	2	2 lb. sets	1	June 1
Turnips	Purple top— White Globe	100	Apr. 10	D		24		½ oz.	½	June 1
Beets—early	Early Model	50	Apr. 10	D		30	3	2 oz.	1	July 1
Carrots—early	Chantenay	50	Apr. 10	D		30	3	½-1 oz.	½	July 10
Lettuce	New York	50-100	Apr. 10		Successive seedings	24	10	¼ oz.	½	June 20
Swiss Chard	Lucullus	50	Apr. 10	D		30	6	2 oz.	1	July 1
Onion (seed)	Yellow Danvers	100-200	Apr. 10-25	D		30	3	1 oz.	½	Sept. 10- Oct. 10
Parsnips	Hollow Crown	50-75	Apr. 20	D		30	3-4	½-1 oz.	1	Sept. 20
Salsify	Sandwich Island	50	Apr. 20			30	3-4	1	1	Sept. 15
Cauliflower	Snowball	2-3 doz.	Feb. 25	Hotbed	Apr. 25	36	24			July 10
Corn—Sweet	Portland Market, Golden Bantam, Howling Mob	Rectangular block of each variety	May 1- June 15	D		36	6-10	1 pt.	2-3	July 25- frost
Beans—snap	Stringless— Green pod, Refugee, Kidney Wax	200	May 1 July 1	D	Successive seeding	36	3	1 lb.	1-2	July 20- first
Beans—pole	Kentucky Wonder	100	May 15	H		36	24-30	1 lb.	2	Aug. 1
Beans—lima	Holmes Butter, Oregon Pole Lima	100-150	May 15	H		36	24-30	1 lb.	2	Sept. 10
Tomato	Earliana,	2-3 doz.	Feb. 25	H	May 25	48	36-48		½	Aug. 1- frost

Cucumber	Davis Perfect	18 hills	May 25	H	48-54	48	1/2 oz.	1	Aug. 1-frost
Squash—winter	Delicious, Hubbard	12-15 hills	May 25	H	96	72	1 oz.	1	Sept. 15
Pumpkin	Winter Luxury	10-12 hills	May 20	H	84	72	1 oz.	1	Sept. 15
Pepper	Chinese Giant	12-18 plants	Feb. 25	P	June 10	36	24	1/2	Sept. 1
Eggplant	Black Beauty	6-12 plants	Feb. 25	P	June 10	36	24	1/2	Aug. 25
Carrots—late	Chantenay	50	June 15	D	24	3	1/2-1 oz.	1	Sept. 15
Beets—late	Early Model	50	June 15	D	24	3	2 oz.	1	Sept. 15
Broccoli	St. Valentine	3-4 doz.	May 1	P	June 25	36	32	1/2	March 10
Celery	Golden Self Blanching	50 ft.	March 10	P	June 20	30	6	1/4	Sept. 15
Cauliflower	Dry Weather	3-4 doz.	May 1	P	June 20	36	30	1/2	Oct. 1
Cabbage—late	Glory, Ball Head, Green Savoy	5-6 doz.	May 1	P	June 25	36	30	1/2	Oct. 1
Sprouts—Brussels	Odense Market	2-3 doz.	May 1	P	June 25	36	30	1/2	Oct. 20
Kale	Dwarf or Tall Green curled	50	May 1	P	June 25	36	24	1/2	Sept. 25
Turnips—late	See early	See foot-note 8	Aug. 10	Kohlrabi can be used as substitute for turnips				1/2	Oct. 25
Cabbage—Chinese	Wong Bok	25	Aug. 1-15		24	10	1/2 oz.	1/2	Oct. 10
Also the following perennials									
Asparagus	Washington	100 (50 plants)		P	April 15	24		10-12	Apr. to July
Rhubarb	Victoria	12-24 plants		P	April 1-15	48		3-4	Apr. to July

NOTES ON PLANTING TABLE

- Varieties recommended are standard. The variety, however, is no better than the seed strain; consequently it is very important to use good seed, as well as to grow the varieties suggested above.
- Dates are approximately correct but naturally vary according to season and locality.
- Dates of maturity show whether a crop takes half or all of the growing season to produce a crop.
The following successions of crops are suggested: (a) Early radish and lettuce followed by late carrots and beets. (b) Early spinach followed by celery. (c) Early peas followed by broccoli and fall cauliflower. (d) Early cabbage followed by fall lettuce and spinach. (e) Early beets and carrots followed by Brussels sprouts and curly kale. (f) Early onion sets and turnips followed by late cabbage.
- Sweet corn plantings should preferably be in rectangular blocks and varieties should be some distance apart to prevent crossing.
- Farmers are particularly encouraged to plant either one of the above-mentioned lima bean varieties, which grow especially well in the state.
- Two sowings of beets and carrots are recommended, the first for early summer roots, the second for fall and winter supply.
- Lettuce must be grown in small amounts by planting successively each three or four weeks for continual production.
- Turnips are usually broadcasted for fall production.
- Contrary to general opinion, winter squash will not cross with pumpkin, cucumber, melon, or summer squash. The only ones of these mentioned which will cross are pumpkins and summer squash, and they should therefore not be planted near each other.
- Where only a single row of vegetable is to be planted the main consideration of the gardener is to observe the distance between plants in the row, allowing the given space, as noted, before proceeding to plant the next vegetable.
- Where more than one variety of a vegetable is suggested, it is not unwise to plant both kinds as in the case of Glory and Ball head cabbage for fall and winter, Earliana and Bonny Best tomatoes, respectively.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. There is little excuse for an insect-eaten garden. Most of the common vegetable insects can be readily controlled with standard poison dusts. The Extension Service can furnish free literature concerning insect control, including: The Gray Garden Slug, Station Bulletin 170; Insect Pests of Truck and Garden Crops, Extension Bulletin 325.
2. Well-grown plants of many vegetables for transplanting, such as tomato, cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, celery, peppers, etc., aid materially in giving the crop a good start. These should either be grown in hotbeds on the farm or purchased from some reliable grower.
3. Many farm gardens will repay, in added value of crops, time and money spent in irrigation. The water can be readily applied by gravity from the water storage tank on the farm.
4. Commercial fertilizers are often a valuable stimulant to vegetable growth. A special circular is available concerning the materials to use and how to apply them (Station Circular 31, Commercial Fertilizers).
5. Unprofitable farm gardens are usually due to any or all of the following: hasty planning and planting, lack of choice of varieties, use of poor seed, insufficient fertilizer, ravages of insects, inconsistent care in cultivation and weed killing, and insufficient soil moisture.
6. It is inadvisable to send samples of soil from small individual farm gardens for analysis. If in doubt as to what fertilizer should be used for vegetable growing, send details concerning the soil and nature of previous crops to the writer of this circular.

PUBLICATIONS ON VEGETABLE GARDENING

To be had without cost

Farmer's Bulletins obtainable free from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

	No.		No.
Asparagus	869	Onion Culture	854
Cabbage	438	Sweet Potato Growing	999
Celery	1269	Home Storage of Vegetables	879
The Farm Garden in the North.....			937
Saving Vegetable Seeds for the Home and Market Garden.....			884
Home Production of Onion Seed and Sets.....			434
Control of Insects and Diseases in the Home Vegetable Garden.....			856

Publications obtainable free from the Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis.

Bulletins

The Home Vegetable Garden.....	Extension Bulletin 287
Seed Sowing and Spring Transplanting in the Vegetable Garden.....	Extension Bulletin 290
Insect Pests of Truck and Garden Crops.....	Extension Bulletin 325

Mimeographs—Extension Service, Corvallis

Asparagus	Details of the Small Greenhouse
Late Cabbage	Broccoli Growing and Marketing
Celery	Horseradish
Onions	Rhubarb Culture and Marketing
Early Tomato Growing and Marketing	Peppermint Culture
Fertilizers for Truck Crops	Head Lettuce Growing in Field and Frame
Spinach Culture and Marketing	Vegetables for the Cannery and Dehydrator
Hotbeds and Cold Frames in Gardening	