

PLANNING A VEGETABLE GARDEN

(Including Planting and Harvest Calendar)

A well-planned vegetable garden provides an economical and continuous supply of fresh, nutritious vegetables throughout the season. An urban gardener with a fairly small plot can expect to raise a substantial amount of fresh vegetables from a good garden. A suburban or farm gardener with plenty of space can raise quantities of vegetables to can, freeze, or otherwise store.

A successful garden begins with planning. First of all, plant what you enjoy. If space and time are limited, select crops that are especially tasty when freshly picked and difficult to buy in your area.

There are many techniques for making the most of garden space, including succession planting of the same crop at different planting dates, interplanting of quick-maturing crops next to long-season crops next to long-season crops, and double-cropping one crop after another has been harvested.

Gardening is fun, but it's also hard work. Planting and caring for a family garden is easy during the first few weeks of spring. The real work starts when the weather gets hot. Weeding, thinning, replanting late crops, and many other jobs are essential to maintain a good garden.

Location and Soil

Urban gardeners have little choice as to garden location, but rural gardeners should give careful consideration to these important points:

- (1) The garden should be convenient to the house, water and tools.
- (2) Soil should be well drained and the best available.
- (3) For maximum sunlight, locate the garden away from trees and buildings.

The size of a family garden depends on the number in the family, the time available, and the amount of canning, freezing and storing to be done. It's better to do a good job with a small garden than a poor job with a large garden.

The Garden Plan

A good gardener plans the garden on paper long before spring. The early arrival of seed catalogs stimulates this desire.

