

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
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GARDEN SUGGESTIONS

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A home garden is essential to good living on the farm. It is the cheapest, quickest and most dependable way of supplying vegetables for the table. A good garden is one that will supply fresh vegetables from early spring to late fall, a supply of certain vegetables for storage in a fresh state for winter, and a supply of vegetables for canning and drying.

SUGGESTED PLANTING ARRANGEMENT

It would be well to arrange the vegetables in planting in the garden according to the length of time they will occupy the ground. In other words, the long lived vegetables should be on one side of the garden following in succession by the shorter lived vegetables. Below is a suggested arrangement. Note that the arrangement begins with the long lived vegetable, carrot, on one side of the garden, followed by others according to the time they will be in the garden.

Carrots	Tomato	Onions	Mustard
Pole Beans	Sweet Potato	Cabbage	Spinach
Lima Beans	Black Eyed Peas	Irish Potatoes	Lettuce
Cantaloupes	Bush Snap Beans	Turnip	Radishes
Watermelon	Beets	Peas (English or	
Pumpkin	Corn	Garden)	

Preparation of ground: It is very important to manure and plow the garden in late fall or early winter, leaving the ground rough. The alternate freezing and thawing during the winter is very beneficial. In the case of rather low, poorly drained ground it would be well to plow the ground in lands. The dead furrows will serve as drainage. Where three-foot rows are to be used it would be well to plow the lands in 9-12 or 15-foot widths, thus three, four or five rows could be planted in the spring on the respective lands.

At the approach of spring the land, as a rule, should be replowed. In case of a soil of a loose nature or where hard packing rains have not occurred, replowing may not be necessary.

Beans: Bush snap beans will not stand frost and do not grow well until the soil is fairly warm. The first planting should be made between April 10 and April 20, and successive plantings may be made every two weeks. Plant in rows 2½ to 3 feet apart and the plants should stand about four inches part in the row. Bush snap beans may be planted in late summer and successive plantings may be made up to within eight weeks of frost. Pole beans may be planted within 10 weeks of frost.

Varieties: Stringless Green Pod is a good bush snap bean. Burpee's Bush Lima is good. Kentucky Wonder and Speckled Lima are good pole varieties.

Beets: Beets will stand a fairly heavy frost with but little injury, as well as drouth. The seed should be planted early, from the last of Febru-

ary to the middle of March. The seed should be drilled fairly thick and the first thinnings may be used for greens, while the second thinnings may be canned as baby beets. Frequent shallow cultivation is important to induce steady growth to prevent the beets from becoming tough and stringy.

Varieties: Early Blood Turnip, Crosby Egyptian and Detroit Dark Red are good varieties.

Cabbage: Cabbage grows best in cool weather and is a semi-hardy vegetable standing considerable cold. The plants or seed should be set out or planted early in the spring from the middle of February to early March. The plants should stand 24 inches apart in the row and the rows 30 to 36 inches apart. The plants should be set deeply to prevent injury from freezes which frequently split the stems. Set the plants in the ground to the first leaves.

Varieties: Jersey Wakefield and Charleston Wakefield are good varieties.

Cantaloupes: Where there is a choice between soils, it is preferable to plant cantaloupes on a light sandy soil. Seed may be planted similar to that of cucumbers, namely—drill along in the row thinly about three-fourths inches deep, rows six feet apart then finally the melons thinned to two or three feet apart in the drill. Seed should not be planted until danger of frost is past which is as a rule from about April 10 to May 4.

Varieties: Rocky Ford and Pollock 10-25 are popular varieties.

Carrots: Carrots are getting to be a much more popular vegetable than it was in former years. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that it furnishes a fresh vegetable throughout the entire growing season, then again, it is used in so many different dishes for the table. The seed should be planted the last of February or early March about one-half inch deep, drilled rather thickly in the row and thinned as the carrots grow. Carrots will remain over in the ground during the winter but it is preferable to harvest them and store them in soil banks similar to that of turnips.

Varieties: The Improved Red Cored Chantenay or Chantenay are good varieties.

Corn: Corn is one of the staple crops used as a vegetable in Oklahoma. Corn should be planted early so the tasseling stage will come before the hot winds. Plant March 15 to April 15 for spring planting. Four or five grains per hill and hills three foot apart or plant about seven inches apart in a 3-foot row is a good spacing. Two or three plantings 10 days apart may be made or planting of early, medium and late varieties may be made.

Varieties: Golden Bantam, Stowell's Evergreen and Country Gentleman are good varieties.

Lettuce: Lettuce is a vegetable which requires cool weather and, therefore, does best in the spring and fall. This vegetable grows most rapidly in the cool moist spring weather and begins to go to seed and becomes bitter in flavor after the hot weather begins. Plant the seed thickly in the drill row and cover about one-fourth inch deep, from the middle of February to the middle of March.

Varieties: Big Boston and Hanson are good head varieties and Grand Rapids is a good leaf variety.

Mustard: Mustard is the most common plant used as spring greens. Plant the seed in February to the middle of March. Drill the seed fairly thick in the row and cover one-fourth inch deep.

Variety: Southern Giant Curled is the leading variety.

Onions: Onions are semi-hardy vegetables and the sets, plants or seed should be placed in the garden from the middle of February to the middle of March. Where seed are used, drill in the row and cover the seed about one-half inch deep. The sets should be placed in the ground so the tops are even with the surface of the soil and where seedling onions, that is the plants as frequently obtained on the local markets, they should be set so that the green tops are left above the ground. Where southern onion seedlings are set shallow and followed by freezes frequently many plants are lost.

Varieties: The Bermuda onions are at present most commonly used. The Valencia or Sweet Spanish is mild, productive and a better keeper than the Bermuda onions.

Peas: English or garden peas grow and yield best in a cool climate and therefore should be planted early and varieties used that will mature before hot dry weather sets in. From the central to the western part of the State only the early dwarf varieties are grown, however, in the eastern part of the State the climbing varieties are frequently grown to advantage from a home garden standpoint. The seed should be drilled in three-foot rows and about two inches deep in the drill. The seed should be planted about the last of February or the first part of March.

Varieties: Alaska, First and Best and Bliss Everbearing are good dwarf varieties.

Cowpeas (Black Eyed): Cowpeas ordinarily are considered field crops, but the average Oklahoma farm family appreciates them as a vegetable in that the tender green pods may be used as a substitute for snap beans then the partially ripe peas as well as the dry peas for winter use. Cowpeas may be planted following Irish potatoes or some early growing crop. A maximum yield of peas will be obtained where planted in rows rather than broadcast. Do not plant until the soil is thoroughly warm say in May or June.

Varieties: The Black-Eyed, Crowder or Whippoorwill are good varieties.

Irish Potato: Every farm family should raise sufficient Irish potatoes to supply their family needs. It is important to have the Irish potato crop mature early in order to avoid the dry hot weather as it is a cool moist loving plant. Where possible select fertile, well drained, moist, sandy loam with a good supply of organic matter. Plant the potatoes the latter part of February to the middle of March in three-foot rows and about three inches deep.

Cut the seed pieces so that they contain at least one good eye. Use at the rate of 10 to 12 bushels per acre. It is a mistake to peel off the outside of a potato for planting purposes and eat the inside. All of the potato should go into the seed pieces. A large seed piece is less apt to be injured by drouth or wet weather. Again where the plants are cut down in the spring by a late freeze the plants will recover to better advantage.

The early cultivation should be deep and the later cultivation shallow. Late deep cultivation destroys the feeding roots. As cultivation proceeds gradually work the soil to the plants so as to form a mound. The secret in keeping the spring crop is to harvest early, avoid exposing the potatoes to the sun, handle carefully and store in a cool dry place.

Varieties: Only early varieties such as the Triumph and Irish Cobblers should be used.

Sweet Potatoes: Sweet potatoes are very tender plants and should not be set out until all danger of frost has passed and the soil is thoroughly warm. A well drained sandy or light sandy loam soil is essential for the best yield of smooth sweet potatoes. Set the plants 12 to 14 inches apart in 3 to 3½ foot rows in May. Keep up cultivation as long as the plants will permit, gradually working the soil to the plants. High hill rows in a sandy well drained soil is not necessary. Where only heavy soil is available the plants should be set on a ridge. Dig the potatoes in the fall, preferably before frost, in case of a heavy frost cut off the vines as soon after as possible. Harvest and handle carefully to avoid breaking or bruising the potatoes. Broken or bruised potatoes should be separated from those to be stored. Where a potato storage house is not available, stack a few bushels in slatted crates or baskets around the stove for about three weeks in order to cure them out, then store where they will not freeze.

Varieties: Nancy Hall and Porto Rican are the two most popular varieties.

Pumpkin: Pumpkins grow quite well in Oklahoma. Their culture is about the same as melons and cucumbers. Seed may be drilled along in rows, rows six feet apart. Plants may be thinned to two or three feet apart in the rows. Quite frequently pumpkins are raised in the corn field. They should not be planted until danger of frost is past which is the latter part of April and through May.

Varieties: Large Cheese and Small Sugar are two popular varieties.

Radishes: Radishes are semi-hardy and one of the quickest and earliest vegetables grown. Plant from the middle of February to April for successive plantings. Plant the seed in drills about one-third inch deep.

Varieties: There are two principal types of radishes, the small roundish and long varieties. Early Scarlet Globe and French Breakfast are small roundish varieties and the Icicle and Charter Long Scarlet are long and later varieties.

Spinach: Spinach is a much more popular vegetable in Oklahoma than formerly. The growing of spinach has been urged especially on account of its value in the diet. Rich loam soil, fairly moist and well drained is preferable for growing this vegetable. Since it is a leaf plant plenty of nitrogen in the soil is very important and where it is grown in such a soil it is much more succulent and tender.

Spinach is a semi-hardy vegetable and thrives best during the cool, moist portions of the growing season, namely—spring and fall. For spring plant the seed in February and March, for fall and winter plant when the fall rains and cool weather begin which as a rule is in September. Plant in rows for home use.

Varieties: Bloomdale Savoy and Victoria are popular varieties.

Tomato: The tomato is one of the most popular vegetable grown. In the central and western part of the State frequently the plants grow and bloom but fail to set on fruit during the hot, dry, windy weather. It is very important to have good healthy cold frame plants to set out when danger of frost is past. A protected place from the southwest winds in the central and western portions of the State is a very desirable location to set tomato plants. Such a place may be in a valley or to the north of a hill or timber belt or even buildings. Set tomato plants deeply three or four feet apart in rows five feet apart.

Varieties: June Pink and Bonny Best are good varieties. Stone is a standard canning tomato of midseason. Marglobe is a popular wilt resistant variety.

Turnip: The turnip is a cool weather plant and it is difficult to get the seed to germinate during dry, hot weather. The turnips also get more or less woody and strong if grown during hot weather. Plant thickly in three-foot rows about the last of February or early March. Thin the plants later to five inches apart. For the fall crop, sow in rows or broadcast sometime in August or September on well prepared land.

There seems to be a difference of opinion as to which is the better method of planting turnip seed, in rows or broadcast. Under the average conditions, the row method is preferable. The chief advantages in the row method are: Insures a better stand, does not require so much seed, cultivation may be practiced, and under average care the turnips will be larger.

Varieties: Purple Top Milan is an early variety. Purple Top White Globe is a good fall variety.

Watermelons: Watermelons prefer a sandy soil containing an abundant supply of organic matter which enables them to stand dry weather better. New soil is preferable for the growing of watermelons in the commercial section of the State. Rotted manure well worked into the hills or drill is very desirable. Watermelons are very sensitive to cold and should not be planted until all danger of frost is past.

Watermelons should be planted four or five feet apart in the drill and the drills as much as 12 feet apart. Where melon vines are thinned to one to the hill then all defective and surplus melons removed down to two or three to the vine melons will be larger and more uniform in size and shape.

Varieties: Tom Watson and Irish Gray are two of the most popular varieties. The Kleckley Sweet and Halbert Honey are two melons of high quality.