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# FITTING AND PLANTING SMALL GARDENS

Prepared by Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

FOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE ON FOOD SUPPLY

**SUNLIGHT.** If land is densely shaded by trees, high walls or fences, gardening cannot be successful. **At least** five hours a day of exposure to direct sunlight is needed. Lettuce, spinach, and even carrots and beets will grow with less sun, "at a pinch", but not to much advantage.

**WATER.** Crops are oftener cut short because of lack of water than for lack of fertilizer. Be ready for a "dry spell", especially on loose sandy soil. Water abundantly, when needed, stir the soil to a depth of an inch as soon as the surface is dry enough, and then wait until the soil is quite dry before watering again. Give your land time to breathe between drinks.

A good rule for beginners is to use a sprinkler, moving it along so that the soil drinks the water and none stays on the surface (that is, "puddles"). Go over the bed repeatedly until puddling happens almost as soon as more water is added—**and then stop.**

**SOIL.** The soil must be spaded, turned over and crumbled, with a spade or flat-tined spading fork, to a depth of six or seven inches, and cleared of all stones and other refuse at the same time. If manure can be got, it should be spread over the land before spading. Do not be afraid of putting on too much manure. Neglected soils greatly need the vegetable matter of manure to give them the bacterial life on which fertility depends.

After spading, rake the surface to make it fairly smooth and break large lumps. Don't finely pulverize the surface till planting time, and don't let the surface cake or crust after rain, but break the crust with the rake.

**MANURE.** Get manure if you can—fine rotted manure without long straw in it.

**FERTILIZERS.** Build the spring bonfire near, but not on, the garden spot, unless necessary. Put **every waste thing** from the house or premises into it, that will burn, and spread all the ashes on the spaded garden. The ashes of dead leaves have little but lime in them, but use them too. **But look out for fire!** Rake in the ashes at once.

**COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS.** Use a 4-10 formula (4 per cent. of ammonia and 10 per cent. of phos-

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phoric acid), or a 4-8, and spread evenly over the surface at the rate of not less than 20 nor more than 40 pounds to each plot 20x40. (Any dealer in fertilizer will understand what these figures mean).

This should be well worked into the soil by repeated raking, and then, after a special raking to make the surface soil smooth and fine and clear of all rubbish, you are ready to plant.

Even if abundant manure and fertilizers cannot be got, careful preparation of the soil, good tillage of the growing crops, and skillful watering may yet give a fair return for the labor.

**HOW TO PLANT.** Put tall-growing crops like corn where they will least shade other crops and leave more room between the rows.

**DISTANCE OF PLANTING.** Drop all the seeds mentioned hereafter, except peas and beans, carefully by hand in the drill, not in bunches but evenly, say about eight or ten to the inch of drill; beets a little thinner. Peas and beans are sown about two to the inch. The smaller the seed the closer the sowing.

**DEPTH OF PLANTING.** Small garden seeds, as a rule, are planted about one inch deep; lettuce one-half to three-quarters inch deep; beans two inches, and peas three inches deep. In all cases, the soil, if light, should be gently packed down over the seed.

**WHAT TO PLANT.** The following schedule is planned for a small garden spot of 800 square feet (20 feet by 40 feet).

In so small a garden no great variety of vegetables should be grown. Those vegetables have been named which offer the best supply of food. Names of a few good varieties are given. There are other varieties probably as good.

The quantities of seed given are probably sufficient. If three times the area is planted, probably twice the amount of seed would suffice, except of beans and peas.

Fordhook bush Lima beans and summer squash, planted May 20-25, parsley and sweet peppers also sweet corn, would be possible in a larger garden.

For food value, nothing is better in the small garden than snap beans.

In addition to the vegetables named, by all means plant New Zealand spinach, if seed can be got, *and no other kind*, two rows  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart.

Here follows the schedule :

**First row :** TOMATOES. Set plants about May 18th, one foot from edge of garden, three feet apart. Leave space two feet between rows. Plants can be bought in your locality.

**Second row :** PEAS. Alaska,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of seed; plant as soon as garden is ready, three inches deep. Leave space of two feet between rows.

**Third row :** PEAS. Nott's Excelsior,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint; plant when 1st row is 2 inches high, 3 inches deep. Leave  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet space between rows.

**Fourth row :** SWISS CHARD. One paper of seed. Plant as soon as garden is ready. Leave  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet space between rows.

**Fifth row :** SNAP BEANS. Currier's Rust-Proof,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint. Plant early in May. Put seed about two to the inch and cover two inches. Leave  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet space between rows.

**Sixth row :** Same as 5th row. Leave  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet space between rows.



- Seventh row:** SNAP BEANS. Refugee,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint. Plant in May. Two to the inch; cover about 2 inches, leave  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet space between rows.
- Eighth row:** Same as seventh row. Leave  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet space between rows.
- Ninth row:** BEETS. Eclipse, 1 package of seed. Plant in April. Thin until plants are 3 or 4 inches apart. Leave space of 1 foot between rows.
- Tenth row:** BEETS. Egyptian Red, 1 package of seed. Plant as soon as garden is ready. Thin until plants are 3 to 4 inches apart. Leave 1 foot space between rows.
- Eleventh row:** CARROTS. Danver's Half Long, 1 package of seed, for 2 rows. Plant as soon as garden is ready. Thin until plants are 3 to 4 inches apart. Leave 1 foot space between rows.
- Twelfth row:** CARROTS. Same as 11th. row. Leave 1 foot space between rows.
- Thirteenth row:** TURNIPS. White Egg. Plant as soon as garden is ready. A paper of seed for 2 rows. Thin until plants are 3 to 4 inches apart. Leave space of 1 foot between rows.
- Fourteenth row:** Same as 13th row. Leave 1 foot space between rows.
- Fifteenth row:** ONIONS. Prizetaker,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce of seed for 2 rows. Plant in April or early May. Thin until plants are 3 inches apart. Leave 1 foot space between rows.
- Sixteenth row:** ONIONS. Same as 15th row. Leave 1 foot space between rows.
- Seventeenth row:** ONIONS. Southport Red Globe,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce of seed for 2 rows. Plant in April. Thin until plants are 3 inches apart. Leave 1 foot space between rows.
- Eighteenth row:** ONIONS. Same as 17th row. Leave 1 foot space between rows.
- Nineteenth row:** PARSNIPS. Hollow Crown, 2 packages of seed for 2 rows. Plant in April. Thin until plants are 4 inches apart. Leave 2 feet space between rows.
- Twentieth row:** Same as 19th row. Leave 2 feet space between rows.
- Twenty-first row:** EARLY CABBAGE. Set 2 feet apart. Plant late in April. Late cabbage can be set in July where early-growing vegetables like peas have been harvested. Leave 2 feet space between rows. Buy plants early.
- Twenty-second row:** NEW ZEALAND SPINACH. 1 package of seed for 2 rows. Can be planted any time.
- Twenty-third row:** NEW ZEALAND SPINACH. Same as 22nd row.

The second sowing of turnips may be made in July where the peas have been grown. A second crop of beets and carrots may also be sown later wherever early crops have been taken off.

This leaves a few feet for other things. There should be one row of lettuce (1 paper of Big Boston). Sow half the row in April and make other sowings later. Transplant to any place in the rows where there are vacancies.

Another row might be sown with late cabbage to be later transplanted to the row left vacant by early vegetables.

Copies of this circular and also of any other circulars desired concerning crop production issued by the Bureau may be obtained at any of the below addresses.

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CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF FOOD SUPPLY

36 Pearl Street, Hartford, Conn.

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From the local office of any Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade.

From any Town Clerk's office, (excepting those in cities.)

From any one of the following County Agents:-

New London County	—	Fred C. Warner, 82 Shetucket St., Norwich.
Windham County	—	Benjamin W. Ellis, Putnam.
Fairfield County	—	F. J. Wright, Norwalk.
Litchfield County	—	Allan W. Manchester, Litchfield.
Hartford County	—	Otis J. Moore, 450 Asylum St., Hartford.
New Haven County	—	Lester T. Harvey, Chamber of Commerce Bldg. New Haven.
Tolland County	—	John E. Gifford, Rockville.
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Any of the above county agents will gladly answer any questions or give any information desired about the growing of crops or any other agricultural matter.