Extension Bulletin E-1769
June 1985 (New) 504
Planning
So, you've decided to have a garden. Congratulations. Individuals in over half the households in Michigan are involved in gardening in one form or another. Some people garden for the fun of it, others because they enjoy harvesting fresh vegetables that aren't carried in local groceries or supermarkets. Many individuals garden to save money while others garden for the therapeutic benefits. For whatever reason, this bulletin will help get gardening activity underway. For additional information on home gardening, see Extension Bulletins E-529, Home Vegetable Gardening; E-760a, Home Vegetable Garden Variety Recommendations; E-760b, Home Vegetable Garden Disease, Insect and Weed Control; and the Family Vegetable Garden Series of leaflets E-824. These and other extension bulletins are available from your local county extension office.

After deciding to have a garden, decisions have to be made about varieties of vegetables to plant, how much, when, where and what to do with seeds left over from last year. With experience, many of these decisions will be much easier to make, so don't get discouraged.

## What To Plant

This usually depends on available space, family preferences, and experience. The vegetables listed in the VEGETABLE PLANNING CHART (Table 1) are divided into five groups for both cool and warm season vegetables starting with the small or inexperienced gardener (left

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## A Vegetable

 Gardencolumn) and gradually expanding (both in size of garden and kinds of vegetables grown) to a large garden (right column). Actual size could vary from less than 20 square feet to more than 1,000 square feet. Inexperienced gardeners or gardeners with limited space usually grow salad-type vegetables. As they gain experience or acquire more space they grow the more popular vegetables. Most of the vegetables and herbs listed in the two righthand columns aren't necessarily more difficult to grow, such as Chinese cabbage, parsley, rhubarb or Jerusalem artichoke, they just aren't as popular and some require considerable space.

## When To Plant

Most vegetables are either cool or warm season crops. Cool season vegetables grow best during the cooler temperatures of spring or fall and can withstand some frost or freezing temperatures, particularly when young. Some, such as onions, peas and spinach, are very hardy and can be planted as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring. This is usually late March or early April in southern Michigan and $1-3$ weeks later further north. Fall garden plantings should generally be made in July.

Warm season crops, such as cucumber, melons, squash, peppers and tomatoes are sensitive to cool temperatures and will be killed by
frost. They cannot be safely planted outdoors until the danger of frost is past unless they are placed under hot caps, tents or covers. Seeds of warm season crops germinate poorly in cool soil and may rot in wet soil if planted too early. Early varieties of sweet corn can usually be planted a couple of weeks ahead of other warm season vegetables since they aren't quite as tender and seedlings will have some protection by the surrounding soil until they emerge from the ground.

Follow directions in this bulletin or on seed packets for the proper time to plant and don't be afraid to gamble with a few seeds. If a few seedlings or plants aren't lost to frost in the spring, they probably weren't planted early enough.

The map showing average date of last temperature of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ or lower in the spring can be used to help determine planting dates for spring and summer gardens. The other map, average date of first temperature of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ or lower in the fall, can be used for planning late or fall gardens. The average dates refer to those dates when there is a $50 \%$ probability of temperature of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ or lower occurring on or after that date in spring (Table 2), or a $50 \%$ probability of temperaure of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ or lower occurring on or before that date in fall (Table 3).

For an example, in Jackson County the last date for the temperature of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ in the spring is between April 30 and May 10. Table 2 shows that the actual date is May 8. Also from the table it can be determined when the last chance of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ or lower temperature is apt

TABLE 1. VEGETABLE PLANNING CHART

|  | Beginning or Patio Gardener | Small Gardener (add) | General Garden (add) | Serious Gardener (add) | Confirmed Gardener (add) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cool Season Crops | Lettuce (leaf \& bibb) Onions | Carrots <br> Peas <br> Radishes | Beets <br> Broccoli <br> Brussels Sprouts <br> Cabbage <br> Cauliflower <br> Parsnips <br> Spinach <br> Swiss Chard <br> Turnip | Celeriac <br> Chinese Cabbage <br> Chives <br> Collards <br> Dill <br> Kale <br> Kohlrabi <br> Lettuce (head) <br> Parsley <br> Potato <br> Rutabaga | Asparagus (perennial) Celery Garlic Horseradish Mustard Rhubarb (perennial) Salsify |
| Warm Season Crops | Cucumber (bush) Squash (summer) Tomato | Beans, snap <br> Cucumber (vine) <br> Peppers <br> Tomatoes <br> (cherry, paste) | Beans, lima <br> Eggplant <br> Muskmelons <br> Okra <br> Pumpkins <br> (bush) <br> Squash, winter <br> Sweet Corn | Pumpkins <br> Watermelons <br> Tomatoes (yellow) | Jerusalem Artichoke <br> Pop Corn <br> Sweet Potato <br> Soybeans |

to occur as well as other probabilities. These probabilities and dates can be of use in determining when to plant warm season transplants such as tomatoes. For no chance of frost, set the plants in the garden on May 31 in Jackson County. To gamble a little and perhaps get ripe tomatoes up to 15 days earlier, transplant them on May 21 for a $10 \%$ chance of temperatures $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ or lower or on May 15 for a $25 \%$ chance of temperature $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ or lower. There are, of course, differences in sites, elevation and local weather conditions, but information in these maps and tables should help make planning easier.

## Direct Seeding vs Transplanting

Although seeds of most vegetables are sown directly where they will grow and mature in a garden, it is usually desirable to transplant seedlings of some vegetables to the garden. Using trans-
plants will result in an earlier harvest, a longer harvesting period and will not tie up garden space as long (especially important if space is limited).

Seedlings of the following vegetables are commonly transplanted:

Warm Season Vegetables
(commonly transplanted after
most danger of frost is past)
Tomato
Pepper
Eggplant
Melons _ Not as easily
Cucumbers $\rightarrow$ transplanted

## Cool Season Vegetables

(can withstand some frost and freezing temperatures)
Cabbage
Broccoli
Cauliflower
Brussels Sprouts
Head Lettuce
Even by using transplants, most gardeners find it difficult to get tomatoes to ripen much before early August in southern lower Michigan, except for early varieties. You can usually buy better quality transplants than you can grow yourself. The main advantage of producing your own is that you grow the varieties you want. Determine early
any transplants that will be purchased, since there will be no need to purchase seeds of those varieties.

For a fall or late garden, seeds of the cool season crops listed above may be sown in the garden in small seed beds and then transplanted to their final location where they will mature during the cool months of fall such as September, October, and perhaps November.

## Where to Locate the Garden

Garden location is very important. It should be nearby to enjoy watching the plants grow. It should also be close to water, in full sunlight, and have good, welldrained soil. It does not have to be located in the backyard nor does it have to be all in one place. Many vegetables can be combined with or used in place of flowers in beds or for borders. Some that work well are bush and pole beans, beets, Swiss chard, cabbage, bush cucumbers and squash, eggplant, kale, lettuce, leeks, okra, parsley,


Maps showing last temperature of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ in spring and first expected days of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ in the fall.
peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes. Perennial vegetables such as asparagus and rhubarb can be planted in the yard, especially the front or side, and be used for landscaping and eating.

The site should be satisfactory if a good crop of grass or weeds grows on it. It should not be close to trees since their roots may extend far beyond the outermost branches and will compete with garden plants for moisture and nutrients.

The garden can be broken into several small beds. It could also be in a container on a patio, balcony or porch. It could be located in a community garden plot at a church, school, park or other site. The garden may be split if space is limited and the smaller vegetables grown at home and the larger ones such as sweet corn and vine crops somewhere else such as a rented plot. In general, the further away from the residence that the garden is located, the less time for enjoying the plants and watching them grow
and mature. Vandalism is usually more of a problem when gardens are grouped together.

## How Much to Plant

The amount of each vegetable to plant depends mainly on the number of individuals that the garden is to feed and whether or not vegetables will be eaten fresh, stored, canned, frozen or dried. How much to plant is also influenced by family preference, space available, vacation schedules and planting and tillage methods. Weeding, watering, pest control, harvesting and general garden chores take much more time than planting the seeds or transplants. Start small and enlarge the garden size as more is learned about cultural techniques and the time re-
quired to maintain a garden. The average garden size is between 500 and 1,000 square feet, but smaller gardens or a container garden can be very rewarding, both in enjoyment and productivity.

THE VEGETABLE PRODUCTION CHART (Table 4) is helpful in determining how much to plant of those vegetables that your family likes to eat and has space to grow. Gardeners with limited space should look at the last column which gives the approximate yield per 100 square feet and may be used to help determine the relative productivity of various vegetables. For example, snap beans are about seven times as productive as lima beans so if space is a problem, lima beans probably should not be grown.

## Successive Plantings

Vegetables can be harvested over
a longer period of time if successive

Table 2. Percent Probability of Temperature of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ or Lower Occurring On or After Date in Spring

| Station | Firs |  | 95\% |  | 90\% |  | 75\% |  | 50\% |  | 25\% |  | 10\% |  | 5\% |  | Last |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Adrian | Apr | 16 | Apr | 18 | Apr | 21 | Apr | 27 | May | 3 | May | 9 | May | 15 | May | 19 | May | 23 |
| Allegan | Apr | 15 | Apr | 16 | Apr | 20 | Apr | 28 | May | 6 | May | 14 | May | 22 | May | 26 | June | 12 |
| Alma | Apr | 18 | Apr | 24 | Apr | 27 | May | 3 | May | 10 | May | 17 | May | 23 | May | 26 | May | 27 |
| Alpena WSO | May | 3 | May | 10 | May | 14 | May | 22 | May | 31 | June | 8 | June | 16 | June | 21 | June | 21 |
| Alpena | Apr | 18 | Apr | 20 | Apr | 24 | May | 1 | May | 8 | May | 15 | May | 22 | May | 26 | May | 29 |
| Ann Arbor | Apr | 10 | Apr | 12 | Apr | 16 | Apr | 22 | Apr | 29 | May | 6 | May | 12 | May | 16 | May | 27 |
| Atlanta | May | 2 | May | 11 | May | 16 | May | 24 | June | 2 | June | 11 | June | 19 | June | 24 | July | 6 |
| Bad Axe | Apr | 20 | Apr | 27 | May | 1 | May | 8 | May | 15 | May | 22 | May | 29 | June | 2 | June | 8 |
| Battle Creek | Apr | 16 | Apr | 19 | Apr | 22 | Apr | 28 | May | 5 | May | 11 | May | 17 | May | 21 | May | 27 |
| Bay City | Apr | 13 | Apr | 14 | Apr | 18 | Apr | 25 | May | 2 | May | 9 | May | 15 | May | 19 | May | 26 |
| Big Rapids | May | 2 | May | $4^{\circ}$ | May | 8 | May | 13 | May | 20 | May | 26 | June | 1 | June | 4 | June | 12 |
| Bloomingdale | Apr | 17 | Apr | 19 | Apr | 24 | May | 1 | May | 10 | May | 19 | May | 26 | May | 31 | June | 12 |
| Cadillac | May | 9 | May | 4 | May | 11 | May | 21 | June | 1 | June | 12 | June | 23 | June | 29 | July | 11 |
| Caro | Apr | 23 | May | 4 | May | 8 | May | 15 | May | 23 | May | 31 | June | 7 | June | 12 | June | 22 |
| Charlotte | Apr | 17 | Apr | 24 | Apr | 28 | May | 5 | May | 13 | May | 21 | May | 29 | June | 2 | June | 12 |
| Chatham | May | 17 | May | 18 | May | 24 | June | 1 | June | 11 | June | 21 | June | 30 | July | 5 | July | 31 |
| Cheboygan RR | Apr | 26 | Apr | 30 | May | 4 | May | 10 | May | 17 | May | 24 | May | 31 | June | 4 | June | 21 |
| Coldwater St. Hosp | Apr | 16 | Apr | 18 | Apr | 22 | Apr | 29 | May | 7 | May | 14 | May | 21 | May | 25 | May | 27 |
| Detroit City | Apr | 7 | Apr | 10 | Apr | 13 | Apr | 18 | Apr | 24 | Apr | 30 | May | 5 | May | 8 | May | 12 |
| Detroit Metro | Apr | 12 | Apr | 14 | Apr | 18 | Apr | 25 | May | 3 | May | 11 | May | 18 | May | 23 | May | 29 |
| East Jordan | May | 10 | May | 11 | May | 15 | May | 22 | May | 30 | June | 6 | June | 13 | June | 17 | June | 22 |
| East Tawas | Apr | 29 | May | 3 | May | 7 | May | 14 | May | 22 | May | 30 | June | 7 | June | 11 | June | 14 |
| Eau Claire | Apr | 8 | Apr | 16 | Apr | 19 | Apr | 25 | May | 2 | May | 9 | May | 15 | May | 18 | May | 29 |
| Escanaba | Apr | 24 | Apr | 27 | Apr | 30 | May | 5 | May | 11 | May | 17 | May | 22 | May | 25 | May | 30 |
| Fayette | Apr | 26 | Apr | 29 | May | 3 | May | 9 | May | 16 | May | 23 | May | 29 | June | 2 | June | 8 |
| Fife Lake | May | 9 | May | 15 | May | 20 | May | 29 | June | 7 | June | 17 | June | 25 | June | 30 | July | 6 |
| Flint | Apr | 18 | Apr | 22 | Apr | 26 | May | 2 | May | 8 | May | 15 | May | 21 | May | 25 | May | 27 |
| Frankfort | Apr | 16 | Apr | 27 | May | 2 | May | 10 | May | 18 | May | 26 | June | 3 | June | 7 | June | 23 |
| Gladwin | May | 4 | May | 2 | May | 6 | May | 13 | May | 20 | May | 28 | June | 3 | June | 7 | June | 22 |
| Grand Haven | Apr | 7 | Apr | 16 | Apr | 19 | Apr | 25 | May | 1 | May | 8 | May | 14 | May | 17 | May | 18 |
| Grand Marais | May | 7 | May | 7 | May | 13 | May | 23 | June | 4 | June | 15 | June | 25 | June | 30 | July | 20 |
| Grand Rapids | Apr | 10 | Apr | 13 | Apr | 18 | Apr | 24 | May | 2 | May | 10 | May | 17 | May | 21 | May | 27 |
| Grayling | May | 2 | May | 7 | May | 12 | May | 21 | May | 31 | June | 10 | June | 19 | June | 24 | July | 21 |
| Greenville | Apr | 13 | Apr | 19 | Apr | 23 | May | 1 | May | 9 | May | 18 | May | 26 | May | 30 | June | 12 |
| Gull Lake | Apr | 20 | Apr | 22 | Apr | 25 | May | 1 | May | 7 | May |  | May | 19 | May | 22 |  | 29 |
| Hale Loud Dam | May | 3 | May | 6 | May | 10 | May | 16 | May | 23 | May | 30 | June | 6 | June | 9 | June | 20 |
| Harbor Beach | Apr | 8 | Apr | 21 | Apr | 25 | May | 2 | May | 9 | May | 16 | May | 23 | May | 26 | May | 26 |
| Harrisville | Apr | 27 | May | 1 | May | 6 | May | 14 | May | 23 | June | 1 | June | 9 | June | 14 | June | 25 |
| Hart | Apr | 24 | May | 2 | May | 6 | May | 12 | May | 20 | May | 27 | June | 3 | June | 7 | June | 13 |
| Hastings | Apr | 20 | Apr | 25 | Apr | 29 | May | 6 | May | 13 | May | 21 | May | 27 | May | 31 | June | 12 |
| Hillsdale | Apr | 20 | Apr | 22 | Apr | 27 | May | 4 | May | 12 | May | 20 | May | 28 | June | 1 | June | 12 |
| Holland | Apr | 15 | Apr | 16 | Apr | 12 | Apr | 29 | May | 8 | May | 17 | May | 25 | May | 30 | June | 12 |
| Houghton | May | 8 | May | 4 | May | 8 | May | 15 | May | 23 | May | 31 | June | 6 | June | 11 | July | 10 |
| Houghton Lake | Apr | 28 | May | 5 | May | 12 | May | 22 | June | 2 | June | 14 | June | 24 | June | 30 | July | 20 |
| Iron Mountain | May | 10 | May | 13 | May | 16 | May | 23 | May | 30 | June | 6 | June | 12 | June | 16 | June | 22 |
| Ironwood | May | 4 | May | 7 | May | 11 | May | 17 | May | 24 | May | 31 | June | 6 | June | 9 | June | 14 |
| Ishpeming | May | 11 | May | 11 | May | 15 | May | 21 | May | 28 | June | 4 | June | 10 | June | 14 | June | 18 |
| Jackson | Apr | 17 | Apr | 21 | Apr | 25 | May | 1 | May | 8 | May | 15 | May | 21 | May | 25 | May | 31 |
| Kalamazoo St. Hosp | Apr | 14 | Apr | 16 | Apr | 20 | Apr | 26 | May | 3 | May | 11 | May | 17 | May | 21 | May | 27 |
| Lake City | May | 7 | May | 4 | May | 10 | May | 19 | May | 29 | June | 8 | June | 17 | June | 23 | July | 11 |
| Lansing | Apr | 13 | Apr | 18 | Apr | 22 | Apr | 30 | May | 8 | May | 17 | May | 25 | May | 29 | June | 12 |
| Lapeer | Apr | 16 | Apr | 23 | Apr | 28 | May | 5 | May | 14 | May | 23 | May | 30 | June | 4 | June | 8 |
| Ludington | Apr | 17 | Apr | 21 | Apr | 26 | May | 4 | May | 13 | May | 22 | May | 30 | June | 4 | June | 14 |
| Manistee | Apr | 18 | Apr | 23 | Apr | 26 | May | 3 | May | 11 | May | 18 | May | 24 | May | 28 | May | 31 |
| Marquette WSO | Apr | 21 | Apr | 29 | May | 2 | May | 7 | May | 13 | May | 19 | May | 24 | Nay | 27 | May | 29 |
| Midland | Apr | 7 | Apr | 17 | Apr | 21 | Apr | 30 | May | 8 | May | 17 | May | 26 | May | 30 | June | 12 |
| Milford | Apr | 13 | Apr | 21 | Apr | 25 | May | 1 | May | 8 | May | 15 | May | 21 | May | 25 | May | 30 |
| Mio | May | 3 | May | 12 | May | 16 | May | 24 | June | 1 | June | 10 | June | 17 | June | 22 | June | 21 |
| Monroe Mt. Clemens | Apr Apr | 8 | Apr | 10 | Apr | 13 | Apr | 19 | Apr | 26 | May | 2 | May | 8 | May | 12 | May | 13 |
| Mt. Clemens | Apr | 8 | Apr | 8 | Apr | 12 | Apr | 19 | Apr | 27 | May | 5 | May | 12 | May | 16 | May | 23 |
| Mt. Pleasant | Apr | 26 | Apr | 29 | May | 2 | May | 8 | May | 14 | May | 21 | May | 27 | May | 30 | May | 30 |
| Munising | May | 17 | May | 23 | May | 27 | June | 2 | June | 10 | June | 17 | June | 24 | June | 28 | July | 4 |
| Muskegon | Apr | 14 | Apr | 17 | Apr | 21 | Apr | 28 | May | 6 | May | 14 | May | 21 | May | 25 | June | 12 |
| Newago | Apr | 24 | May | 6 | May | 10 | May | 18 | May | 26 | June | 3 | June | 11 | June | 15 | June | 22 |
| Newberry | May | 5 | May | 9 | May | 13 | May | 19 | May | 26 | June | 2 | June | 9 | June | 12 | June | 18 |
| Onaway | May | 3 | May | 6 | May | 10 | May | 17 | May | 25 | June | 1 | June | 8 | June | 12 | June | 15 |
| Owosso | Apr | 19 | Apr | 25 | Apr | 29 | May | 5 | May | 12 | May | 19 | May | 25 | May | 29 | May | 30 |
| Paw Paw | Apr | 20 | Apr | 23 | Apr | 27 | May | 4 | May | 11 | May | 19 | May | 26 | May | 30 | June | 12 |
| Pontiac | Apr | 17 | Apr | 20 | Apr | 23 | Apr | 30 | May | 6 | May | 13 | May | 19 | May | 23 | May | 25 |
| Port Huron | Apr | 13 | Apr | 13 | Apr | 17 | Apr | 25 | May | 3 | May | 11 | May | 18 | May | 22 | June | 5 |
| Saginaw FAA | Apr | 10 | Apr | 16 | Apr | 20 | Apr | 27 | May | 4 | May | 11 | May | 18 | May | 21 | May | 28 |
| Sault St. Marie | Apr | 23 | May | 3 | May | 7 | May | 14 | May | 22 | May | 29 | June | 5 | June | 9 | June | 21 |
| South Haven | Apr | 15 | Apr | 17 | Apr | 21 | Apr | 26 | May | 3 | May | 9 | May | 14 | May | 18 | May | 23 |
| Three Rivers | Apr | 15 | Apr | 20 | Apr | 24 | Apr | 30 | May | 8 | May | 15 | May | 21 | May | 25 | May | 29 |
| Traverse City | May | 3 | May | 2 | May | 7 | May | 15 | May | 23 | June | 1 | June | 8 | June | 13 | July | 6 |
| Vanderbilt II | May | 22 | May | 26 | May | 31 | June | 10 | June | 20 | June | 30 | July | 10 | July | 16 | July | 31 |
| West Branch | May | 7 | May | 7 | May | 12 | May | 19 | May | 27 | June | 4 | June | 11 | June | 15 | June | 18 |
| Willis | Apr | 19 | Apr | 22 | Apr | 26 | May | 2 | May | 10 | May | 17 | May | 24 | May | 28 | May | 29 |

Table 3. Percent Probability of Temperature of $32^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ or Lower Occurring On or Before Date in Fall

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Station \& Last \& \& 95\% \& \& 90\% \& \& 75\% \& \& 50\% \& \& 25\% \& 10\% \& 5\% \& First <br>
\hline Adrian \& Oct \& 27 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 21 \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct \& 8 \& Oct 1 \& Sept 24 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 17 <br>
\hline Allegan \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 26 \& Oct \& 22 \& Oct \& 16 \& Oct \& 8 \& Sept 30 \& Sept 24 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 20 <br>
\hline Alma \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 24 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 13 \& Oct \& 6 \& Sept 28 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 17 \& Sept 17 <br>
\hline Alpena WSO \& Oct \& 7 \& oct \& 7 \& Oct \& 2 \& Sept \& 25 \& Sept \& 17 \& Sept 9 \& Sept 2 \& Aug 28 \& Aug 22 <br>
\hline Alpena \& Nov \& 4 \& Oct \& 31 \& Oct \& 26 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct \& 11 \& Oct 4 \& Sept 26 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 17 <br>
\hline Ann Arbor \& Nov \& 11 \& Nov \& 7 \& Nov \& 2 \& Oct \& 27 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct 11 \& Oct 4 \& Sept 30 \& Sept 28 <br>
\hline Atlanta \& Oct \& 7 \& Oct \& 5 \& Sept \& 30 \& Sept \& 23 \& Sept \& 15 \& Sept 7 \& Aug 30 \& Aug 26 \& Aug 12 <br>
\hline Bad Axe \& Nov \& 7 \& Oct \& 30 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 16 \& Oct \& 6 \& Sept 27 \& Sept 18 \& Sept 1? \& Sept 8 <br>
\hline Battle Creek \& Nov \& 5 \& Oct \& 29 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 17 \& Oct \& 8 \& Sept 29 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 17 \& Sept 6 <br>
\hline Bay City \& Nov \& 9 \& Nov \& 6 \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 16 \& Oct 8 \& Sept 30 \& Sept 25 \& Sept 20 <br>
\hline Big Rapids \& Oct \& 18 \& Oct \& 13 \& Oct \& 9 \& Oct \& 3 \& Sept \& 26 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 12 \& Sept 8 \& Sept 3 <br>
\hline Bloomingdale \& Oct \& 30 \& Oct \& 28 \& Oct \& 24 \& Oct \& 17 \& Oct \& 9 \& Oct 1 \& Sept 23 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 18 <br>
\hline Cadillac \& Oct \& 30 \& Oct \& 17 \& Oct \& 10 \& Sept \& 28 \& Sept \& 15 \& Sept 2 \& Aug 21 \& Aug 14 \& Aug 1 <br>
\hline Caro \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct \& 11 \& Oct \& 7 \& Oct \& 1 \& Sept \& 24 \& Sept 18 \& Sept 12 \& Sept 8 \& Sept 3 <br>
\hline Charlotte \& Oct \& 28 \& Oct \& 17 \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct \& 7 \& Sept \& 30 \& Sept 23 \& Sept 16 \& Sept 12 \& Sept 6 <br>
\hline Chatham
Cheboygan \& Oct
Nov \& 16 \& Oct
Nov \& 6
1 \& Oct
Oct \& 27 \& Sept \& 17 \& Sept
Oct \& 14 \& Sept
Sept 27 \& Aug
Sept

Sep \& Aug
Sept
22

12 \& | Aug | 4 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Aug | 22 | <br>

\hline Coldwater St. Hosp \& Oct \& 26 \& Oct \& 23 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct \& 4 \& Sept 27 \& Sept 20 \& Sept 16 \& Sept 11 <br>
\hline Detroit City \& Nov \& 15 \& Nov \& 11 \& Nov \& 7 \& Oct \& 31 \& Oct \& 23 \& Oct 15 \& Oct 8 \& Oct 4 \& Sept 29 <br>
\hline Detroit Metro \& Nov \& 9 \& Oct \& 31 \& Oct \& 27 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct 4 \& Sept 27 \& Sept 23 \& Sept 22 <br>
\hline East Jordan \& Oct \& 22 \& Oct \& 17 \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct \& 4 \& Sept \& 24 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 7 \& Sept 2 \& Aug 24 <br>
\hline East Tawas \& Oct \& 24 \& Oct \& 16 \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct \& 5 \& Sept \& 27 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 13 \& Sept 8 \& Aug 21 <br>
\hline Eau Claire \& Nov \& 13 \& Nov \& 10 \& Nov \& 5 \& Oct \& 29 \& Oct \& 21 \& Oct 12 \& Oct 5 \& Sept 30 \& Sept 25 <br>
\hline Escanaba \& Nov \& 8 \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 27 \& Oct \& 18 \& Oct \& 8 \& Sept 28 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 14 \& Sept 15 <br>
\hline Fayette \& Nov \& 9 \& Oct \& 30 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 17 \& Oct \& 8 \& Sept 28 \& Sept 20 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 16 <br>
\hline Fife Lake \& Oct \& 6 \& Oct \& 5 \& Sept \& 29 \& Sept \& 20 \& Sept \& 10 \& Aug 30 \& Aug 21 \& Aug 16 \& Aug 1 <br>
\hline Flint \& Nov \& 6 \& Oct \& 26 \& Oct \& 22 \& Oct \& 16 \& Oct \& 8 \& Sept 30 \& Sept 24 \& Sept 20 \& Sept 17 <br>
\hline Frankfort \& Nov \& 8 \& Nov \& 3 \& Oct \& 29 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 10 \& Sept 30 \& Sept 20 \& Sept 15 \& Aug 29 <br>
\hline Gladwin \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct \& 13 \& Oct \& 9 \& Oct \& 2 \& Sept \& 24 \& Sept 16 \& Sept 9 \& Sept 5 \& Aug 21 <br>
\hline Grand Haven \& Nov \& 14 \& Nov \& 5 \& Oct \& 31 \& Oct \& 23 \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct 5 \& Sept 27 \& Sept 23 \& Sept 21 <br>

\hline Grand Marais \& Nov \& 25 \& Nov \& 11 \& NOv \& 2 \& Oct \& 18 \& Oct \& 2 \& Sept 15 \& Aug 31 \& Aug 23 \& $$
\text { Aug } 3
$$ <br>

\hline Grand Rapids \& Nov \& 29 \& Nov \& 12 \& Nov \& 6 \& Oct \& 28 \& \& 17 \& Oct 6 \& Sept 27 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 21 <br>
\hline Grayling \& Oct \& 7 \& Oct \& 7 \& Oct \& 3 \& Sept \& 25 \& Sept \& 17 \& Sept 8 \& Sept 1 \& Aug 27 \& Aug 7 <br>
\hline Greenville \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct \& 18 \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct \& 9 \& Oct \& 3 \& Sept 27 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 13 <br>
\hline Gull Lake \& Nov \& 7 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 21 \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct \& 6 \& Sept 29 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 17. \& Sept 13 <br>
\hline Hale Loud Dam \& Oct \& 23 \& Oct \& 11 \& Oct \& 8 \& Oct \& 2 \& Sept \& 27 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 12 \& Sept 2 <br>
\hline Harbor Beach \& Nov \& 4 \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 28 \& Oct \& 22 \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct 8 \& Oct 2 \& Sept 29 \& Sept 23 <br>
\hline Harrisville \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 18 \& Oct \& 14 \& JOct \& 7 \& Sept \& 30 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 11 \& <br>
\hline Hart \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 23 \& Oct \& 18 \& Oct \& 10 \& Oct \& 1 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 14 \& Sept 9 \& Sept 1 <br>
\hline Hastings \& Oct \& 23 \& Oct \& 16 \& Oct \& 13 \& Oct \& 7 \& Sept \& 30 \& Sept 24 \& Sept 18 \& Sept 14 \& Sept 11 <br>
\hline Hillsdale \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct \& 8 \& Sept \& 30 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 14 \& Sept 10 \& Sept 3 <br>
\hline Holland \& Nov \& 7 \& Nov \& 3 \& Oct \& 28 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 10 \& Sept 30 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 16 \& Sept 11 <br>
\hline Houghton \& Nov \& 2 \& Oct \& 24 \& Oct \& 18 \& Oct \& 10 \& Oct \& 1 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 13 \& Sept 8 \& Sept 6 <br>
\hline Houghton Lake \& Oct \& 23 \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct \& 7 \& Sept \& 26 \& Sept \& 13 \& Aug 31 \& Aug 20 \& Aug 13 \& Aug 1 <br>
\hline Iron Mountain \& Oct \& 13 \& Oct \& 5 \& Oct \& 1 \& Sept \& 25 \& Sept \& 18 \& Sept 11 \& Sept 4 \& Aug 31 \& Aug 26 <br>
\hline Ironwood \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct \& 9 \& Oct \& 5 \& Sept \& 29 \& Sept \& 22 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 9 \& Sept 5 \& Aug 23 <br>
\hline Ishpeming \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct \& 10 \& Oct \& 6 \& Sept \& 29 \& Sept \& 21 \& Sept 13 \& Sept 7 \& Sept 2 \& Aug 29 <br>
\hline Jackson \& Oct \& 30 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct \& 6 \& Sept 28 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 18 \& Sept 17 <br>
\hline Kalamazoo St.Hosp \& Nov \& 5 \& Oct \& 31 \& Oct \& 26 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct \& 10 \& Oct 2 \& Sept 24 \& Sept 20 \& Sept 20 <br>
\hline Lake City \& Oct \& 9 \& Oct \& 3 \& Sept \& 30 \& Sept \& 24 \& Sept \& 17 \& Sept 10 \& Sept 4 \& Sept 1 \& Aug 28 <br>
\hline Lansing \& Oct \& 27 \& Oct \& 22 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct \& 5 \& Sept 28 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 18 \& Sept 13 <br>
\hline Lapeer \& Nov \& 6 \& Oct \& 22 \& Oct \& 17 \& Oct \& 10 \& Oct \& 1 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 10 \& Sept 3 <br>
\hline Ludington \& Nov \& 24 \& Nov \& 10 \& Nov \& 4 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 13 \& Oct 2 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 16 \& Sept 13 <br>
\hline Manistee \& Nov \& 10 \& Nov \& 6 \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 23 \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct 4 \& Sept 26 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 3 <br>
\hline Marquette WSO \& Nov \& 8 \& Nov \& 7 \& Nov \& 3 \& Oct \& 26 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct 11 \& Oct 3 \& Sept 29 \& Sept 26 <br>
\hline Midland \& Nov \& 5 \& Oct \& 24 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct \& 6 \& Sept 29 \& Sept 22 \& Sept 18 \& <br>
\hline Milford \& Nov \& 3 \& Oct \& 30 \& Oct \& 26 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct \& 11 \& Oct 3 \& Sept 26 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 20 <br>
\hline Mio \& Oct \& 6 \& Oct \& 1 \& Sept \& 28 \& Sept \& 21 \& Sept \& 15 \& Sept 8 \& Sept 1 \& Aug 29 \& Aug 21 <br>
\hline Monroe \& Nov \& 9 \& Nov \& 7 \& Nov \& 3 \& Oct \& 27 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct 13 \& Oct 6 \& Oct 2 \& Sept 28 <br>
\hline Mt. Clemens \& Nov \& 12 \& Nov \& 8 \& Nov \& 4 \& Oct \& 28 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct 11 \& Oct 4 \& Sept 29 \& Sept 24 <br>
\hline Mt. Pleasant \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct \& 9 \& oct \& 2 \& Sept 25 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 14 <br>

\hline Munising \& Oct \& 21 \& Oct \& 9 \& Oct \& 4 \& Sept \& 27 \& Sept \& 18 \& Sept 10 \& Sept 2 \& Aug 29 \& $$
\text { Aug } 21
$$ <br>

\hline Muskegon \& Nov \& 25 \& Nov \& 8 \& Nov \& 3 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct 4 \& Sept 25 \& Sept 20 \& Sept 8 <br>
\hline Newago \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct \& 10 \& Oct \& 6 \& Sept \& 30 \& Sept \& 23 \& Sept 16 \& Sept 10 \& Sept 6 \& Sept 3 <br>
\hline Newberry \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 16 \& Oct \& 11 \& Oct \& 4 \& Sept \& 26 \& Sept 18 \& Sept 11 \& Sept 7 \& Sept 3 <br>
\hline Onaway \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct \& 10 \& Oct \& 2 \& Sept \& 24 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 7 \& Sept 3 \& Aug 22 <br>
\hline Owosso \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 18 \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct \& 8 \& Oct \& 1 \& Sept 25 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 14 <br>
\hline Paw Paw \& Nov \& 5 \& Oct \& 24 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct \& 4 \& Sept 26 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 14 \& Sept 13 <br>
\hline Pontiac \& Nov \& 5 \& Oct \& 31 \& Oct \& 27 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 13 \& Oct 6 \& Sept 29 \& Sept 25 \& Sept 23 <br>
\hline Port Huron \& Nov \& 9 \& Nov \& 8 \& Nov \& 3 \& Oct \& 26 \& Oct \& 17 \& Oct 7 \& Sept 29 \& Sept 24 \& Sept 12 <br>
\hline Saginaw FAA \& Nov \& 9 \& Nov \& 2 \& Oct \& 28 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct 3 \& Sept 25 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 12 <br>
\hline Sault St. Marie \& Oct \& 28 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct \& 14 \& Oct \& 7 \& Sept \& 29 \& Sept 21 \& Sept 13 \& Sept 9 \& Aug 22 <br>
\hline South Haven \& Nov \& 5 \& Nov \& 7 \& Nov \& 3 \& Oct \& 26 \& Oct \& 18 \& Oct 10 \& Oct 2 \& Sept 28 \& Sept 24 <br>
\hline Three Rivers \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 25 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 13 \& Oct \& 5 \& Sept 26 \& Sept 19 \& Sept 15 \& Sept 13 <br>
\hline Traverse City FAA \& Nov \& 1 \& Oct \& 24 \& Oct \& 20 \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct \& 4 \& Sept 26 \& Sept 18 \& Sept 14 \& Sept 11 <br>

\hline Vanderbilt II \& Sept \& 18 \& Sept \& 14 \& Sept \& 9 \& Sept \& 1 \& Aug \& 23 \& Aug 14 \& Aug 5 \& Aug 1 \& $$
\text { Aug } 1
$$ <br>

\hline West Branch \& Oct \& 29 \& Oct \& 12 \& Oct \& 8 \& Sept \& 29 \& Sept \& 20 \& Sept 11 \& Sept 3 \& Aug 29 \& Aug 21 <br>
\hline Will is \& Oct \& 24 \& Oct \& 19 \& Oct \& 15 \& Oct \& 8 \& Oct \& 1 \& Sept 24 \& Sept 17 \& Sept 13 \& Sept 13 <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

Table 4. VEGETABLE PRODUCTION CHART*

| Vegetable | Amount Needed for One Adult (Fresh Use) |  | Amount Needed for a Family of Four (Fresh Use) |  | Amount Needed for One Adult (Processed/Storage) |  | Amount Needed for a Family of Four (Processed/Storage) |  | Spacing Between Rows | Yield Per 100 Feet of Row | Yield Per 100 Square Feet ${ }^{*}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Pounds | Feet of Row | Pounds | Feet of Row | Pounds | Feet of Row | Pounds | Feet of Row | Inches | Pounds | Pounds |
| Asparagus | 1.5 | 10 | 5 | 35 | 5 | 35 | 15 | 100 | 36 | 15 | 5 |
| Beans, Lima | 3 | 40 | 10 | 125 | 3 | 40 | 10 | 125 | 21 | 8 | 5 |
| Beans, Snap | 15 | 25 | 50 | 85 | 18 | 30 | 55 | 90 | 21 | 60 | 34 |
| Beets | 3.5 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 7.5 | 8 | 25 | 25 | 21 | 100 | 57 |
| Broccoli | 8 | 20 | 25 | 60 | 12 | 30 | 35 | 90 | 30 | 40 | 16 |
| Brussels Sprouts | 6 | 20 | 20 | 65 | 8 | 25 | 25 | 85 | 30 | 30 | 12 |
| Cabbage | 15 | 13 | 45 | 40 | 15 | 13 | 45 | 40 | 30 | 120 | 48 |
| Carrots | 10 | 8 | 30 | 25 | 10 | 8 | 30 | 25 | 21 | 120 | 69 |
| Cauliflower | 9 | 10 | 25 | 30 | 12 | 15 | 35 | 40 | 33 | 90 | 33 |
| Celeriac | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | .- | .- | .- | .- | 21 | 60 | 34 |
| Celery | 4 | 1 | 12 | 3 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 28 | 430 | 184 |
| Chinese Cabbage | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 27 | 420 | 187 |
| Collards | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 21 | 80 | 46 |
| Cucumbers | 8 | 4 | 25 | 12 | 10 | 5 | 30 | 15 | 48 | 200 | 50 |
| Eggplant | 4 | 3 | 10 | 9 | -. | .- | .- | .- | 30 | 115 | 46 |
| Endive | 4 | 7 | 10 | 18 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 15 | 55 | 44 |
| Garlic | 1 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 20 |
| Jerusalem |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arthichoke | 1.5 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 48 | 150 | 38 |
| Kale | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 21 | 100 | 57 |
| Kohlrabi | 1.5 | 2 | 5 | 7 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 21 | 75 | 43 |
| Leeks | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 45 | 36 |
| Lettuce | 6 | 12 | 20 | 40 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 15 | 50 | 40 |
| Muskmelon | 10 | 9 | 30 | 27 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 48 | 110 | 28 |
| Mustard | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | .. | .- | .- | .. | 21 | 50 | 29 |
| Okra | 3 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 20 | 27 | 60 | 27 |
| Onions (dry) | 8 | 12 | 25 | 30 | 20 | 24 | 60 | 72 | 15 | 115 50 | 92 |
| Parsley | . 25 | 1 | 1 | 4 | . 5 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 15 | 30 | 24 |
| Parsnips | 3 | 6 | 10 | 20 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 20 | 21 | 50 | 29 |
| Peas, Shelled | 4.5 | 15 | 15 | 50 | 7.5 | 25 | 25 | 85 | 15 | 30 | 24 |
| Peas, Snap | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 40 | 32 |
| Peppers | 3 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 3.5 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 30 | 120 | 48 |
| Pop Corn | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4 | 15 | 15 | 55 | 33 | 28 | 10 |
| Potatoes, Irish | 25 | 21 | 75 | 50 | 75 | 50 | 225 | 150 | 30 | 150 | 60 |
| Potatoes, Sweet | 3 | 18 | 10 | 25 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 25 | 36 | 40 | 13 |
| Pumpkins | 10 | 4 | 30 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 25 | 8 | 60 | 300 | 60 |
| Radishes | 4 | 40 | 10 | 100 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Rhubarb | 4 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 48 | 100 | 25 |
| Rutabaga | 1.5 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 100 | 57 |
| Salsify | . 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | . 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 21 | 80 | 46 |
| Spinach | 3 | 6 | 10 | 20 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 8 | 15 | 50 | 40 |
| Squash, Summer | 10 | 5 | 30 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 42 | 240 | 69 |
| Squash, Winter | 6 | 3 | 20 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 60 | 230 | 46 |
| Sweet Corn | 25 ears | 25 | 80 ears | 80 | 50 ears | 50 | 160 ears | 160 | 30 | 100 ears | 36 (kernels) |
| Swiss Chard | 3 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 4.5 | 6 | 15 | 20 | 21 | 85 | 49 |
| Tomatoes | 24 | 15 | 70 | 40 | 36 | 23 | 110 | 65 | 36 | 165 | 55 |
| Turnips | 5 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 100 | 57 |
| Watermelons | 12 | 12 | 35 | 35 | -- | -- | -- | .- | 72 | 100 | 17 |

*Assumptions: Amount per person is for individuals who like to eat that particular plant. If they don't, they won't plant any.
Amount for a family of 4 is generally about 3 times the amount needed by one adult. This is because a family of four would usually include some children who probably wouldn't eat as much as an adult, or the family might include one or more members who wouldn't care to eat that particular vegetable.
**Yields are based on standard row plantings. Wide row planting, trellising, and other intensive gardening techniques would probably yield more than the amounts listed above.

| SEED COST COMPARISON |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parsnips (one year longevity) |  |  |  |  | Lettuce (six years longevity) |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | Cost | Feet Planted | Cost for 25 ft . | \% Decrease in Cost Over Pkt. Price | Amount | Cost | Feet Planted | Cost for 20 ft . | \% Decrease in Cost Over Pkt. Price |
| 1 pkt . | \$ . 65 | 25 | \$. 65 | -- | 1 pkt . | \$ . 85 | 20 | \$.85 | -- |
| 1 oz . | 1.65 | 200 | . 21 | 68 | $1 / 2 \mathrm{oz}$. | 1.75 | 200 | . 175 | 79 |
| $1 / 4 \mathrm{lb}$. | 3.25 | 800 | . 10 | 85 | 1 oz . | 2.25 | 400 | . 11 | 87 |

plantings are made. For example, three or four small plantings of corn, beans and lettuce two weeks apart will be better than a single large planting. It is also important to use early, mid-season, and latematuring varieties in conjunction with successive plantings to insure a continual harvest.

## Amount of Seed to Buy

For most vegetables, a small packet of seeds will produce enough for a family of four. More than one packet will probably be needed for large-seeded crops such as beans, peas and sweet corn. Since the number of seeds in a packet varies greatly, the approximate number of seeds in an ounce are given in the SEED INVENTORY AND ORDERING CHART (Table 5). Some seed catalogs also provide information about how much a packet of seeds will plant. Purchase slightly more seeds than needed since $100 \%$ germination rarely will be obtained and often a significant number of seedlings will be lost to insects and diseases. Most gardeners plant excess seeds and then thin to a complete stand of healthy plants before the seedlings start to crowd each other.

## Cost of Seeds

Seeds are relatively inexpensive when compared to other items. However, to save money combine
orders with friends or other individuals and buy seeds in larger quantities. In comparing the cost of parsnip seed by packet and ounce, a one ounce package will plant about eight times as much as a packet, but costs less than three times as much. The ounce packet would be a good buy if the seeds could be used during the year. It would be a poor buy, however, if only a small portion of the seeds were used since the longevity of parsnip seeds is only a year and they would germinate poorly the following year. Note that $1 / 4$ pound would plant 32 times as much as a packet, but costs only five times as much, an $85 \%$ decrease in price. It also would only be a good buy if most of the seeds could be used during the year.
Lettuce and other vegetable seeds cost considerably less when ordered in quantity, but are only a good buy if they can be used while still viable. In comparing a packet and an ounce of lettuce seed, an ounce will plant 20 times as much as one packet, but costs just less than three times as much. Both the half-ounce and one ounce quantities could be good buys if they are used in one year or can be stored properly from year to year and used before they lose their viability.

The main disadvantage of buying seeds in larger quantities is that it takes time and patience to divide large lots into smaller quantities and each person does not end up with nicely illustrated, labeled packets.
left-over seeds from the previous years can also be a challenging experience. Determining what seeds are on hand and still viable is part of the inventory process. THE SEED INVENTORY AND ORDERING CHART (Table 5) can serve as a checklist for determining which seeds are left-over, which varieties and quantities need to be ordered and where seeds can be obtained. See Extension Bulletin E760a, Home Vegetable Garden Variety Recommendations, for more information and a listing of mail order seed companies.

## Storing Seeds

It is generally recommended that home gardeners buy fresh seeds each year. However, it is possible to use left-over seeds of most vegetables that are one or more years old, except onions, parsley, parsnip and salsify, with satisfactory results if the seeds have been stored properly.

The best conditions for storing most vegetable seeds are relatively cool temperatures, $32^{\circ}$ to $40^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$, a relative humidity of 40 to $50 \%$ or lower, and a low moisture content in the seeds, about 7 to $10 \%$. Seeds held in moistureproof and vaporproof containers store better than seeds exposed to the atmosphere, if packed at their optimum moisture content.

If seeds are collected and saved from non-hybrid varieties, let dry-

## Inventorying Seeds

Reading about all the new varieties is very exciting to most gardeners. Finding and inventorying

| TABLE 5. SEED INVENTORY AND ORDERING CHART |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| VegetableSuggested Min. <br> No. of Varieties <br> to Grow | No. of Seeds Per Ounce | Seeds/ 100 ft . (oz.) | Seed <br> Long. <br> (yrs.) | Seeds Left-over (Yes) | Varieties to Order and Quantity | Sources |
| Beans, Lima 1 | 25-75 | 8 | 3 |  |  |  |
| Beans, Snap (green) 1 <br> (yellow) 1 <br> (other: 1 <br>  Romano, <br>  Purple <br>  Pod) | 100-125 | 8 | 3 |  |  |  |
| Beets 1 | 1,600 | 1/2 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Broccoli 1 | 2,000 | $1 / 4$ | 3 |  |  |  |
| Brussels Sprouts 1 | 9,000 | $1 / 4$ | 4 |  |  |  |
| Cabbage 1 | 9,000 | $1 / 4$ | 4 |  |  |  |
| Carrots 1 | 23,000 | $1 / 4$ | 3 |  |  |  |
| Cauliflower 1 | 9,000 | $1 / 4$ | 4 |  |  |  |
| Celeriac 1 | 72.000 | 1/8 | 3 |  |  |  |
| Celery 1 | 72,000 | 1/8 | 3 |  |  |  |
| Chinese Cabbage 1 | 18,000 | 1/4 | 3 |  |  |  |
| Collards 1 | 9,000 | $1 / 4$ | 5 |  |  |  |
| Cucumbers <br> (pickle) 1 <br> (slicer) 1 | 1,100 | $1 / 4$ | 5 |  |  |  |
| Eggplant 1 | 6,500 | 1/8 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Endive 1 | 27,000 | $1 / 4$ | 5 |  |  |  |
| Kale 1 | 9,000 | $1 / 4$ | 4 |  |  |  |
| Kohlrabi 1 | 9,000 | $1 / 4$ | 3 |  |  |  |
| Leek 1 | 11.000 | 1/2 | 2 |  |  |  |
| Lettuce(leaf) 1 <br> (bibb/head) 1 | 25,000 | $1 / 4$ | 6 |  |  |  |
| Muskmelons 1 | 1,300 | 1/4 | 5 |  |  |  |
| Mustard 1 | 18,000 | 1/4 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Okra 1 | 500 | 1/2 | 2 |  |  |  |
| Onions 1 | 9,500 | 1/2 | 1 |  |  |  |
| Parsley 1 | 18,000 | $1 / 4$ | 1 |  |  |  |
| Parsnips 1 | 12,000 | 1/2 | 1 |  |  |  |
| Peas <br>  <br>  <br> (regular) 1 <br> (snap) 1 | 90-175 | 16 | 3 |  |  |  |
| Peas, Southern 1 | 225 | 8 | 3 |  |  |  |
| Peppers 1 | 4,500 | 1/8 | 2 |  |  |  |
| Pop Corn 1 | 200-300 | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |
| Pumpkins 1 | 100-300 | 1/2 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Radish (red) 1 <br> (white) 1 | $\begin{array}{r} 2,000- \\ 4,000 \end{array}$ | 1 | 5 |  |  |  |
| Rutabaga 1 | 12,000 | 1/4 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Salsify 1 | 1,900 | 1/2 | 1 |  |  |  |
| Spinach 1 | 2,800 | 1/2 | 3 |  |  |  |
| Squash(summer yellow) 1 <br> (summer green) 1 <br> (round or scallop) 1 <br> (winter) 1 <br> (esel) | 200-400 | 1/2 | 4 |  |  |  |
|  | 120-180 | 4 | 2 |  |  |  |
| Swiss Chard 1 | 1,600 | 1/2 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Tomatoes (early) 1 <br>  (main season) 1 <br> (cherry) 1  <br>  (paste) 1 <br>  (yellow) 1 | 11,500 | 1/8 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Turnips 1 | 15,000 | 1/4 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Watermelons 1 | 200-300 | 1/2 | 4 |  |  |  |

seeded types stay on the plant as long as possible, collecting the seeds, fruits or entire plants just before seeds are shed. Whole plants can be dried and the seeds threshed by flailing or beating. Spread the seeds in thin layers and air-dry them in a protected area such as on a table indoors for several days to a few weeks depending on the temperature and humidity. Seeds will dry quicker in a well-ventilated room or area where the air is warm and dry. Seeds are commonly saved from self-pollinated crops, not hybrid varieites, of snap and lima beans, endive, lettuce, pea and tomato.

Seeds contained in fleshy fruits such as tomatoes can be separated by hand. Squeeze the fruits to extract the seeds and wash them by placing on a fine screen and squirting with water. Rubbing fruit through a screen, mashing with a wooden block or rolling pin or using an electric mixer are all methods that can be used to separate seeds from fleshy fruits. After separation, seeds should be dried as described above.

## Seed Longevity and Storage

The life span or longevity of seeds varies from a few weeks to over a thousand years depending
upon the kind of plant and storage conditions. Seeds of most cultivated crops rarely remain viable for over 20 years. The longevity of most common vegetable seeds is given in the SEED INVENTORY AND ORDERING CHART. Although seeds may still germinate beyond the listed times, the seedlings probably won't grow as vigorously as those from fresh seeds. Old seeds probably would need to be sown thicker than usual to get a satisfactory stand. If in doubt, test a few seeds to see how well they germinate.

## Testing Seeds

Left-over seeds can easily be tested using a paper towel. Simply place one or more kinds of seeds in rows on a paper towel. Ten in a row is a good number to use since the germination percentage can be determined by multiplying by ten. Roll up carefully, dampen the towel and put it in a covered container. Keep the towel damp, but not saturated. Place the container in a warm location, $75^{\circ}$ to $90^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$, such as on top of a refrigerator. Most viable seeds should germinate within a few days to a couple of weeks. If over half the seeds of a particular variety germinate, that lot probably is satisfactory and fresh seeds won't have to be purchased. If germination is poor, it would probably be best to obtain fresh seeds since the seedlings may not be as vigorous as seedlings from fresh seeds.

## Intercropping

The planting of quick, earlymaturing crops between plants or rows of long-season crops is called "intercropping." This practice is especially useful when garden space is limited. Examples of earlymaturing crops include peas, radishes, green onions, spinach and lettuce. These crops could be planted between rows where latematuring crops such as tomatoes, peppers, egg plant and corn are to be grown.

## Other Information

This bulletin is concerned primarily with getting your garden underway. Other garden bulletins should be of considerable help in actually planting and caring for a garden. Since about half of all households are involved in some form of gardening, you should also be able to get some help from more experienced gardeners.

A complete listing of other garden bulletins is included on the back of this bulletin. They should all be available from your local county extension office.

| Vegetable | Field Planting Times* | Weeks from Seed to Transplanting | Days to Maturity | Days Between Flowering and Harvest | Depth to Plant (Inches) | Amount of Seed or Plants (Ounces) ${ }^{*}$ | Row Length (feet) | Planting D <br> In Rows After <br> Thinning | istance Between Rows | Estimated Production (Pounds) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Asparagus <br> Beans, Lima <br> Beans, Snap <br> Beets <br> Broccoli <br> Brussels Sprouts | April <br> May 20-June 1 <br> April 20-June 30 April 1-July 15 April 20-July 15 April 20-May 15 | $\begin{aligned} & 4 \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | 2 to 3 yrs. <br> 68 to 90 <br> 50 to 70 <br> 57 to 80 <br> 60 to 7.5 <br> 90 to 95 | $\begin{array}{r} 40-45 \\ 10-14 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} 8 \\ 1 \text { to } 2 \\ 1 \text { to } 2 \\ \text { y } 2 / 2 \text { to } 1 \\ \text { (plants) } \\ \text { (plants) } \end{array}$ | 12 plants 8 ounces 2 ounces $1 / 4$ ounce 12 plants 15 plants | $\begin{array}{r} 35 \\ 125 \\ 85 \\ 10 \\ 60 \\ 65 \end{array}$ | 12 to 18 <br> 3 to 4 <br> 3 to 4 <br> 2 to 3 <br> 12 to 15 <br> 18 to 24 | 36 to 60 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 30 <br> 30 | $\begin{aligned} & 5 \\ & 10 \text { (shelled) } \\ & 50 \\ & 10 \\ & 25 \\ & 20 \end{aligned}$ |
| Cabbage <br> Carrots <br> Cauliflower <br> Celeriac <br> Celery <br> Chinese Cabbage <br> Collards <br> Cucumbers | April 1-July 15 April 1-July 1 June 20-30 April 1-20 April 1-May 30 June 20-July 30 April 1-Aug. 1 May 20-June 20 | $\begin{gathered} 4 \text { to } 6 \\ 4 \\ 8 \text { to } 10 \end{gathered}$ | 65 to 100 <br> 85 to 110 <br> 55 to 95 <br> 110 to 120 <br> 85 to 100 <br> 47 to 80 <br> 75 to 80 <br> 50 to 70 | -8 (pickles) <br> 5-18 (slicers) | (plants) <br> $1 / 2$ to 1 <br> (plants) <br> $1 / 2$ <br> (plants) <br> $1 / 2$ <br> $1 / 2$ <br> 1 to 2 | 12 plants <br> 1/8 ounce <br> 5 plants <br> 1/32 ounce <br> 30 plants <br> 1/32 ounce <br> 1/16 ounce <br> 1/16 ounce | 40 25 30 3 3 2 7 12 | $\begin{gathered} 12 \text { to } 15 \\ 1 \\ 18 \text { to } 24 \\ 4 \text { to } 6 \\ 6 \\ 12 \\ 6 \text { to } 8 \\ 12 \end{gathered}$ | 24 to 36 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 30 to 36 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 24 to 32 <br> 24 to 30 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 48 to 72 | ```45 (18 heads) 30 25 (10 heads) 2 12 (6 stalks) 8 (3 heads) 5 25``` |
| Eggplant <br> Endive <br> Garlic <br> Jerusalem Artichoke <br> Kale <br> Kohlrabi <br> Leeks <br> Lettuce (head) <br> Lettuce (leaf) | May 20-June 1 <br> April 1-20 <br> April 1-20 <br> April-May <br> June 20-July 30 <br> Apr. 1-June 30 <br> April 20 <br> April 1-July 15 <br> April 1-July 15 | $6 \text { to } 8$ $4 \text { to } 6$ | $\begin{aligned} & 60 \text { to } 80 \\ & 85 \text { to } 100 \\ & 115 \\ & 90 \text { to } 130 \\ & 55 \text { to } 60 \\ & 50 \text { to } 60 \\ & 130 \\ & 85 \text { to } 90 \\ & 40 \text { to } 50 \end{aligned}$ | 30-40 | (plants) $1 / 2$ $11 / 2$ 4 $1 / 2$ to 1 1 to $11 / 2$ $1 / 2$ $1 / 4$ to $1 / 2$ $1 / 4$ to $1 / 2$ | 3 plants <br> 10 plants <br> 4 cloves <br> 1 tuber <br> 6 plants <br> 24 plants <br> 1/16 ounce <br> 18 plants <br> 1/64 ounce | $\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ 18 \\ 12 \\ 5 \\ 3 \\ 7 \\ 7 \\ 15 \\ 25 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 24 \text { to } 30 \\ 8 \text { to } 12 \\ 3 \\ 12 \text { to } 18 \\ 8 \text { to } 15 \\ 4 \text { to } 8 \\ 2 \text { to } 3 \\ 8 \text { to } 15 \\ 6 \end{gathered}$ | 24 to 36 <br> 12 to 18 <br> 12 to 18 <br> 36 to 48 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 12 to 18 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 12 to 18 | $\begin{aligned} & 10 \text { (10 fruits) } \\ & 10 \\ & 3 \text { (48 bulbs) } \\ & 3 \\ & 3 \\ & 5 \\ & 3 \\ & 24 \text { (21 heads) } \\ & 11 \end{aligned}$ |
| Muskmelon <br> Mustard <br> Okra <br> Onion (sets) <br> Onion (transplants) <br> Onion (seeds) | May 20-June 1 <br> April 1-Aug. 15 <br> May 20-June 1 <br> April 1-May 1 <br> April 1-May 1 <br> April 1-May 1 | 4 $12$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80 \text { to } 90 \\ & 45 \text { to } 50 \\ & 80 \text { to } 90 \\ & 45 \text { to } 90 \\ & 90 \text { to } 115 \\ & 105 \text { to } 130 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 40-45 \\ & 4-6 \end{aligned}$ | (plants) $1 / 2$ $1 / 2$ 1 to 2 (plants) $1 / 2$ | 6 plants 1/32 ounce $1 / 4$ ounce 4 ounces 120 plants $1 / 4$ ounce | $\begin{array}{r} 27 \\ 6 \\ 17 \\ 15 \\ 15 \\ 15 \end{array}$ | 36 to 48 <br> 6 to 8 <br> 12 to 15 <br> 2 to 3 <br> 2 to 3 | 48 to 60 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 24 to 30 <br> 12 to 18 <br> 12 to 18 <br> 12 to 18 | $\begin{aligned} & 30 \text { (5-6 fruits) } \\ & 3 \\ & 10 \\ & 11 \\ & 11 \\ & 5 \end{aligned}$ |
| Parsley <br> Parsnips <br> Peas <br> Peppers <br> Pop Corn <br> Potatoes <br> Potatoes, Sweet <br> Pumpkins | April - July <br> April 1-20 <br> April 1-30 <br> May 20-June 1 <br> May 20-June 1 <br> April 20-June 1 <br> May 20-June 1 <br> May 20-June 15 | 6 | $\begin{aligned} & 76 \text { to } 85 \\ & 105 \text { to } 120 \\ & 60 \text { to } 70 \\ & 60 \text { to } 80 \\ & 90 \text { to } 120 \\ & 100 \text { to } 120 \\ & 120 \\ & 100 \text { to } 120 \end{aligned}$ | 7-14 (edible podded) <br> 14-20 (hulled) <br> 45-55 (green stage) <br> 60-70 (red stage) <br> Until Frost $80-110$ | $1 / 4$ $1 / 2$ 1 to 2 (plants) 2 to $21 / 2$ 4 (plants) $1 / 2$ | $1 / 32$ ounce <br> 1/16 ounce <br> 16 ounces <br> 6 plants <br> $1 / 2$ ounce <br> 5 pounds <br> 25 plants <br> 1/8 ounce | 4 20 58 8 $25 \times 2 \mathrm{r}$ 50 25 10 | 4 <br> 3 to 4 <br> 2 to 3 <br> 14 to 18 <br> 10 to 12 <br> 10 to 12 <br> 12 to 18 <br> 36 to 48 | 12 to 18 <br> 18 to 24 <br> 12 to 18 <br> 24 to 36 <br> 30 to 36 <br> 24 to 36 <br> 36 <br> 60 to 72 | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 10 \\ & 18 \\ & 10 \\ & 14 \\ & 75 \\ & 10 \\ & 30 \end{aligned}$ |


| Vegetable | Field Planting Times* | Weeks from <br> Seed to <br> Transplanting | Days to Maturity | Days Between Flowering and Harvest | Depth to Plant (Inches) | Amount of Seed or Plants (Ounces) | Row Length (feet) | Planting D <br> In Rows After <br> Thinning | istance Between Rows | Estimated Production (Pounds) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Radishes | April 1-July 15 |  | 23 to 30 |  | 1/2 | 1/8 ounce | 100 | 1 to 2 | 6 to 12 | 10 |
| Rhubarb | April |  | 1 to 2 yrs. |  | (plants) | 3 plants | 10 | 36 to 48 | 48 | 10 |
| Rutabaga | June 1-20 |  | 90 to 95 |  | (1/2 | 1/8 ounce | 5 | 4 to 6 | 18 to 24 | 5 |
| Salsify | April 1-20 |  | 120 |  | 1/2 | 1/64 ounce | 3 | 3 to 4 | 18 to 24 | 2 |
| Spinach | April 1-July 15 |  | 40 to 50 |  | 1/4 to $1 / 2$ | 1/16 ounce | 20 | 3 to 6 | 12 to 18 | 10 |
| Squash (Summer) | May 20-June 1 |  | 45 to 55 | 4-7 | 1 to $1^{1 / 2}$ | 1/16 ounce | 12 | 36 to 48 | 36 to 48 | 30 (60-120 fruits) |
| Squash (Winter) | May 20-June 1 |  | 80 to 110 | 60-70 | 1 to $11 / 2$ | 1/8 ounce | 9 | 48 to 60 | 60 to 72 | 20 (5-10 fruits) |
| Sweet Corn | April 20-July 1 |  | 65 to 95 | 18-23 (from $50 \%$ silking) | 2 to $2^{1 / 2}$ |  |  | 10 to 12 | 30 to 36 | 24 (kernels) (80 ears) |
| Swiss Chard | April 1-20 |  | 50 to 60 |  | 1/2 | 1/16 ounce | $12$ | 6 to 8 | 18 to 24 | 10 |
| Tomatoes | May 20-June 1 | 4 to 6 | 60 to 90 | 45-50 (red ripe) | (plants) | 10 plants | 40 | 36 to 48 | 36 to 48 | 70 |
| Turnips | April 1-July 30 |  | 40 to 60 |  | 1 to $1^{1 / 2}$ | 1/8 ounce | 15 | 18 to 24 | 18 to 24 | 15 |
| Watermelons | May 20-June 1 | 4 | 85 to 95 | 45-50 | (plants) | 6 plants | 35 | 72 | 72 | 35 (3-5 fruits) |

*Earliest dates are for southern parts of the state; northern plantings should be 1 to 3 weeks later.

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## Gardening Bulletins Available from Your Cooperative Extension Service

The following is a complete list of gardening publications which should be available at your county Extension office.

Home Vegetable Garden, E529 - 35¢

Home Vegetable Garden Variety Recommendations, E760A
Home Vegetable Garden Disease, Insect and Weed Control, E-760B - 804
Family Vegetable Garden Series
(26 bulletins), E824 (1-26)

1. Use Winter Months to Plan Ahead
2. Start with Soil
3. Planting
4. Keep'em Growing
5. Herbs
6. Garden Beans
7. Root Crops
8. Greens
9. Melons, Cucumbers, Squash and Pumpkins
10. Salad Stuff
11. Drying and Storing Vegetables
12. Space Saving Ideas
13. Controlling Pests
14. Asparagus and Rhubarb, Garden Perennials
15. Starting Plants at Home
16. Peas
17. Onion Family
18. Tomatoes
19. When to Harvest Vegetables
20. Peppers and Eggplants
21. Sweet Corn
22. Lima Beans and Okra
23. Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes
24. Cabbage Family Vegetables
25. Organic Gardening
26. Dictionary of Terms

Single copies of these garden bulletins are free unless a price is listed.


[^0]:    ** One ounce $=28$ gram

