

family
**Vegetable
Garden**
Series

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-B24 (3)

PLANTING

by nancy e smith and j. lee taylor
DEPT. OF HORTICULTURE

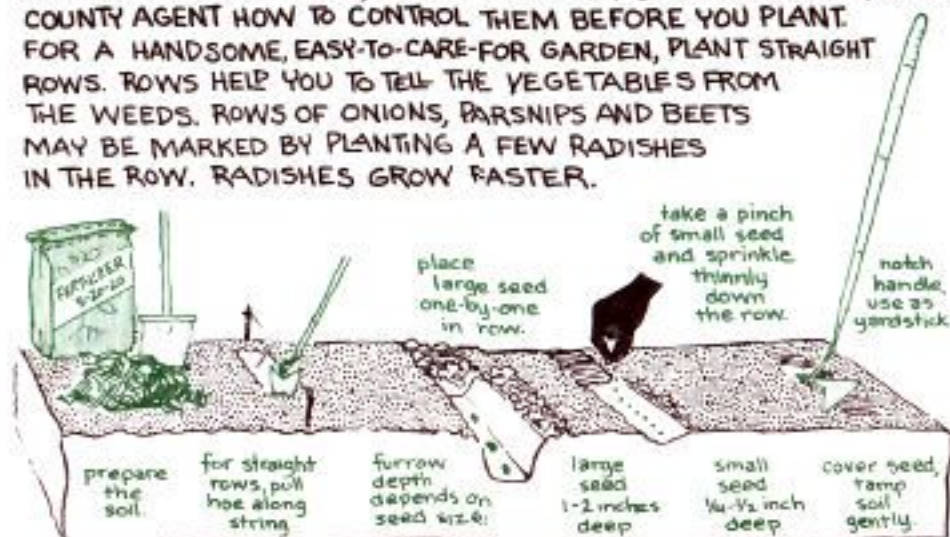
BUYING SEED

BUY RECOMMENDED VARIETIES PACKAGED BY COMPANIES LOCATED IN STATES WITH CLIMATES LIKE MICHIGAN. ASK YOUR COUNTY AGENT FOR A LIST. TESTS SHOW THESE VARIETIES DO BEST IN OUR STATE AND MANY ARE DISEASE RESISTANT. SEED CATALOGUES USUALLY OFFER BETTER SELECTIONS AND VARIETIES, ESPECIALLY IF ORDERS ARE PLACED BY LATE FEBRUARY. YOU MAY BE "TAKING A CHANCE" WITH LOCAL SEED RACKS. IF YOU USE SEED LEFT OVER FROM LAST YEAR, YOU'D BE WISE TO TEST IT.

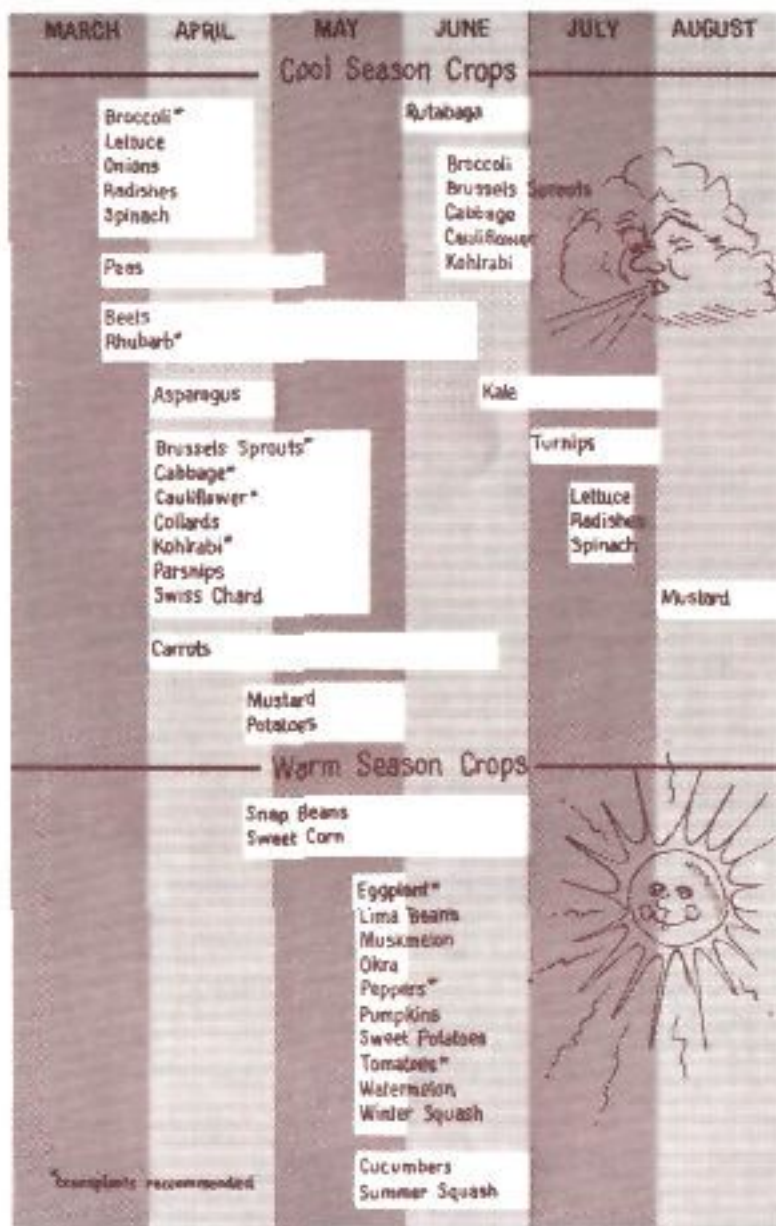
TO TEST SEED... PLACE TEN OR MORE SEEDS ON A MOIST PAPER TOWEL. ROLL UP. PUT IN A PLASTIC BAG IN A WARM PLACE. THEY SHOULD TAKE NO LONGER TO SPROUT (GERMINATE) THAN NEW SEED WOULD IN THE GARDEN. HINT: STORE LEFT-OVER SEED IN AN AIRTIGHT CONTAINER IN A COOL DRY PLACE.

PLANTING SEEDS

PREPARE ONLY THE SOIL YOU INTEND TO PLANT WITHIN A FEW DAYS SO THE WEEDS DON'T GET A HEADSTART. IF THE AREA WAS NOT PLANTED LAST YEAR, SOIL INSECTS MAY BE PRESENT. ASK YOUR COUNTY AGENT HOW TO CONTROL THEM BEFORE YOU PLANT. FOR A HANDSOME, EASY-TO-CARE-FOR GARDEN, PLANT STRAIGHT ROWS. ROWS HELP YOU TO TELL THE VEGETABLES FROM THE WEEDS. ROWS OF ONIONS, PARSNIPS AND BEETS MAY BE MARKED BY PLANTING A FEW RADISHES IN THE ROW. RADISHES GROW FASTER.




When to Plant... based on conditions in southern lower Michigan.



Vegetable	10-foot Row Will Give You About:	No. Seeds per Foot of Row	Depth to Plant (inches)	Days to Harvest	PLANTING DISTANCE(INCHES)	
					In Rows After Thinning	Between Rows
Asparagus	3lbs.	1 crown	6 to 8	(2 to 3 yrs.)	12 to 18	36 to 80
Beans, Lima	1 lb. shelled	6	1 to 2	65 to 90	3 to 4	18 to 24
Beans, Snap	5 lbs.	6	1 to 2	50 to 70	3 to 4	18 to 24
Beets	10 lbs.	10	1/2 to 1	60 to 80	2 to 3	18 to 24
Broccoli	4 lbs.	-	(plants)	55 to 75	18 to 24	30
Brussels Sprouts	2 1/2 lbs.	-	(plants)	55 to 75	18 to 24	30
Cabbage	5 heads	-	(plants)	65 to 100	18 to 24	24 to 30
Carrots	10 lbs.	15-20	1/2 to 1	65 to 85	1 to 2	18 to 24
Cauliflower	5 heads	-	(plants)	60 to 95	18 to 24	30
Collards	8 lbs.	6	1/2	75	6 to 8	18 to 24
Cucumbers	6 lbs.	3-4	1 to 2	50 to 70	12	48 to 72
Eggplant	4 fruit/plant	-	(plants)	70 to 80	24 to 30	24 to 30
Kale	10 bunches	12	1/2 to 1	55 to 60	8 to 15	18 to 24
Kohlrabi	20 stems	12	1 to 1 1/2	55 to 65	4 to 8	18 to 24
Lettuce (head)	10 heads	12	1/4 to 1/2	70 to 85	8 to 15	18 to 24
Lettuce (leaf)	5 lbs.	12	1/4 to 1/2	45 to 55	6	12 to 18
Muskmelon	3-5 fruit/hill	5 every 3 ft.	1 to 2	80 to 90	36 to 48	48 to 60
Mustard	5 lbs.	6	1/2	35 to 45	6 to 8	18 to 24
Okra	6 lbs.	6	1/2	50 to 60	12 to 15	24 to 30
Onion (sets)	5 lbs.	6	1 to 2	90	2	12 to 18
Onion (transplants)	8 lbs.	-	(plants)	90 to 115	2 to 3	12 to 18
Onion (seeds)	8 lbs.	18	1/2	105 to 130	2 to 3	12 to 18
Parsnips	10 lbs.	12	1/2	100 to 120	3 to 4	18 to 24
Peas	2 1/2 lbs.	18	1 to 2	55 to 70	2 to 3	12 to 18
Peppers	6 lbs.	-	(plants)	60 to 80	14 to 18	24 to 30
Potatoes	10 lbs.	1-2 seed pieces	4	100 to 120	10 to 12	24 to 36
Potatoes, Sweet	4 lbs.	-	(plants)	150	12 to 18	36
Pumpkins	2-3 fruit/hill	4-6 every 3 ft.	1/2	100 to 120	36 to 48	60 to 96
Radishes	10 lbs.	12	1/2	25 to 30	1 to 2	6 to 12
Rhubarb	1 lb.	-	(plants)	(1 to 2 yrs.)	36 to 48	48
Rutabaga	10 lbs.	9	1/2	90 to 95	4 to 6	18 to 24
Spinach	5 lbs.	12	1/4 to 1/2	40 to 50	3 to 6	12 to 18
Squash (Summer)	12 fruit/hill	6-8 every 3 ft.	1 to 1 1/2	45 to 60	36 to 48	36 to 48
Squash (Winter)	2-3 fruit/hill	6-8 every 3 ft.	1 to 1 1/2	85 to 110	48 to 60	60 to 72
Sweet Corn	2, 10 ft. rows = 16 ears	2	2 to 2 1/2	65 to 95	10 to 12	30 to 36
Swiss Chard	9 lbs.	6	1/2	50 to 60	6 to 8	18 to 24
Tomatoes	1/4 bushel	-	(plants)	60 to 90	24 to 36	36 to 48
Turnips	10 lbs.	2-3	1 to 1 1/2	40 to 60	4 to 6	18 to 24
Watermelon	2 melons/hill	6-8 every 6 ft.	1 to 2	85 to 95	72 to 96	72 to 96

HILLS ARE GROUPS OF SEEDS, NOT ACTUALLY HILLS OF SOIL. THIN OUT THE WEAKEST SEEDLINGS IN THE HILL.



SPREAD OUT THE HARVEST BY REPEATED PLANTINGS. PLANT LETTUCE IN LATE MARCH AND MID-APRIL FOR HARVEST IN MID-MAY AND LATE JUNE. A THIRD PLANTING IN JULY WILL PUT LETTUCE ON THE TABLE IN SEPTEMBER. OTHER VEGETABLES ALSO LEND THEMSELVES TO SUCCESSIVE PLANTINGS. (SEE "WHEN TO PLANT.")

COOL SEASON CROPS GROW BEST IN COOL WEATHER. FROST WILL NOT INJURE THEM.
WARM SEASON CROPS GROW BEST IN WARM WEATHER. THE SEEDS DO NOT GERMINATE WELL AT LOW TEMPERATURES, AND PLANTS ARE KILLED BY FROST.

BUYING TRANSPLANTS

YOU CAN USUALLY BUY BETTER QUALITY TRANSPLANTS THAN YOU CAN GROW. SELECT SHORT, STOCKY PLANTS. AVOID YELLOW SPINDLY OR TALL PLANTS. CHOOSE RECOMMENDED VARIETIES. BUY PLANTS ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE PLANTING THEM. USE THIS WEEK TO GET PLANTS ADJUSTED TO THE OUT-OF-DOORS. SET THEM OUTSIDE FOR A FEW HOURS EACH DAY TO "HARDEN" THEM OFF.



PLANTING TRANSPLANTS

TRANSPLANT IN THE EVENING OR ON A CLOUDY DAY

HINT: Black plastic is an excellent mulch for warm season crops and should be applied before transplanting. Details in "Summertime" (#4 in this series)

1. SET $\frac{1}{2}$ INCH DEEPER AS SHOWN.



2. FIRM, DON'T PACK THE SOIL. A CIRCLING MOUND WILL HELP HOLD WATER.



3. WATER IF POSSIBLE WITH A STARTER SOLUTION SO NUTRIENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOUNG PLANTS GET OFF



TO A FASTER START THIS FERTILIZER SHOULD BE HIGH IN PHOSPHORUS (LIKE 10-55-10).

BUY A DRY FORM THAT CAN BE DISSOLVED IN WATER (WATER SOLUBLE). IT'S USUALLY CHEAPER

4. PROTECT AGAINST CUTWORMS WITH COLLARS MADE FROM A PAPER CUP WITH THE BOTTOM CUT OUT; OR APPLY AN INSECTICIDE RECOMMENDED BY YOUR COUNTY AGENT.



5. PROTECT PLANTS FROM EARLY SEASON FROST WITH PLASTIC TENTS, BOXES OR POTS. REMOVE AS THE TEMPERATURE RISES.



KEYS
TO
SUCCESS

PLANT AT THE RIGHT TIME
SELECT RECOMMENDED VARIETIES
USE FERTILIZERS

Over 20 other bulletins in this series provide additional information on vegetable gardening.

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