

Family Vegetable Garden Series

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-824(4)

KEEP 'EM

growing

by nancy e. smith and j. lee taylor

DEPT. OF HORTICULTURE

ROOM TO GROW

CROWDED SEEDLINGS DO NOT GROW WELL. WHEN THEY ARE 1 OR 2 INCHES TALL, CAREFULLY PULL OUT THE SMALLER PLANTS. IT IS BEST TO THIN WHEN THE SOIL IS MOIST. THE RIGHT SPACING IS LISTED IN "PLANTING" (NO. 3 IN THIS SERIES), AND PROBABLY ON THE SEED PACKET. IF YOU ARE CAREFUL, YOU CAN TRANSPLANT OR EAT THE THINNINGS.

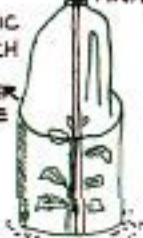


FROST AND WIND PROTECTION

MOST TRANSPLANTS NEED PROTECTION FROM WIND AND COLD. COVER TOMATOES, PEPPERS AND MELONS WITH A TRANSPARENT MATERIAL STURDY ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND WINDS. MAKE SMALL HOLES IN THE SIDES TO PROVIDE AIR. HOT CAPS OR HOT TENTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM GARDEN STORES. IF YOU DO NOT USE COVERS, AND A FROST IS FORECAST, COVER PLANTS OVERNIGHT WITH NEWSPAPER TENTS, PLASTIC OR PAPER MILK CONTAINERS, STRAW, CARDBOARD BOXES, ETC. BE SURE TO UNCOVER THE PLANTS THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

USE STAKE TO
KEEP THE BOTTLE
FROM
BLOWING
AWAY

PLASTIC
BLEACH
OR
SOFTENER
BOTTLE



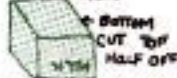
CUT BOTTOM
OUT

A CARDBOARD BOX, UPSIDE
DOWN PROTECTS FROM WIND,
FROST, AND BIRDS.

TOMATO
PLANT



1/2
MILK
CARTON

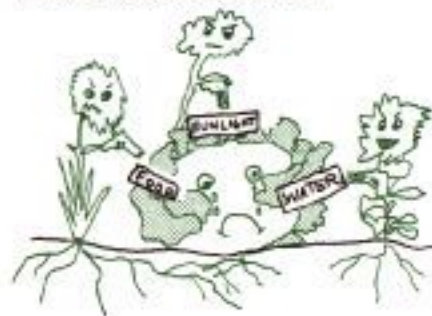


PLASTIC MILK
BOTTLE
CUT
IN
HALF



"AWAY WITH WEEDS"

WEEDS ROB VEGETABLES



A SHARP HOE
MAKES IT
EASIER

HOE OFF WEEDS IN THE
HEAT OF THE DAY SO THEY
DRY OUT AND DIE IN THE SUN.

DO NOT WATER
THE SAME DAY
YOU HOE.

DEEP CULTIVATION (MORE THAN 1")
INJURES VEGETABLE ROOTS
BRINGS WEED SEED TO
THE SURFACE AND DRIES
OUT THE SOIL.



IT IS
BETTER AND EASIER
TO SCRAPE OFF TINY
WEEDS AT SOIL SURFACE.

BIG WEEDS
ARE TOUGH



PULL THEM
WHEN THE SOIL
IS MOIST

MULCHES...

A MULCH IS A MATERIAL THAT IS SPREAD OVER THE SOIL AROUND PLANTS. A MULCH CAN BE USED TO PREVENT WEEDS FROM GROWING, AND TO KEEP THE SOIL MOIST. USE 3 TO 4 INCHES OF STRAW, 2 INCHES OF GRASS CLIPPINGS OR SAWDUST, 4 TO 6 SHEETS OF NEWSPAPER, OR A SINGLE LAYER OF BLACK PLASTIC. NEWSPAPER OR BLACK PLASTIC MUST BE HELD DOWN WITH SOIL OR ROCKS.

MULCHES THAT DECAY... FOR COOL SEASON CROPS ONLY

(SEE NO. 2 IN SERIES)

ORGANIC MULCHES SUCH AS GRASS CLIPPINGS, STRAW AND SAWDUST HELP TO KEEP THE SOIL COOL AND MOIST. SOME VEGETABLES THAT DO WELL IN COOLER SOILS ARE LETTUCE, CABBAGE, SPINACH, PEAS, AND CARROTS. IF THE MULCH IS NOT WELL ROTTED, ADD ABOUT 2/3 CUP OF LAWN FERTILIZER (OR OTHER HIGH NITROGEN FERTILIZER) FOR EVERY 100 SQUARE FEET OF GARDEN. TO FIGURE SQUARE FEET, MULTIPLY LENGTH X WIDTH. DO NOT USE A WEED AND FEED TYPE FERTILIZER. THE WEED KILLER WILL INJURE YOUR VEGETABLES. WORK MULCH INTO SOIL AT END OF SEASON.



WEEDS DIE FROM LACK OF
LIGHT WHERE MULCH IS THICK
ENOUGH.

WEEDS THRIVE IN
A THIN MULCH

BLACK PLASTIC MULCH... FOR WARM SEASON CROPS ONLY

(SEE NO. 2 IN SERIES)



DIG A 4 TO 5 INCH TRENCH WITH A HOE ALONG SIDES AND ENDS WHERE PLASTIC WILL BE LAID. ROLL OUT PLASTIC EVENLY, BURYING THE EDGES. A LARGE PLASTIC TRASH BAG ALSO WORKS WELL.

BLACK PLASTIC WARMS THE SOIL IN SPRING AND KEEPS IT WARM IN SUMMER. SOME VEGETABLES THAT DO WELL IN WARMER SOILS ARE TOMATOES, PEPPERS, SQUASH, PUMPKINS, MELONS, AND CUCUMBERS. THE FRUITS STAY CLEAN AND YIELDS ARE INCREASED (REMOVE BLACK PLASTIC AT THE END OF THE SEASON.)

TURN LAWN INTO GARDEN... THE EASY WAY

MAKE A LONG, NARROW SLIT IN SOO SO YOU CAN "TUCK IN" THE EDGES OF THE BLACK PLASTIC. A LAWN EDGER HELPS

REMOVE SOD WHERE YOU INTEND TO PLANT

ROLL OUT BLACK PLASTIC AND PLANT AS ABOVE IN SPACES WHERE SOD WAS REMOVED.



WATER THROUGH HOLES IN BLACK PLASTIC

"TUCK IN EDGES"

WATER...

WATER IS IMPORTANT ESPECIALLY WHEN FLOWERS AND FRUIT ARE BEING FORMED. GIVE YOUR GARDEN A GOOD SOAKING ONCE A WEEK UNLESS IT RAINS.



MEASURE THE AMOUNT OF WATER APPLIED WITH LAWN SPRINKLER BY PLACING A CAN OR A JAR BETWEEN THE GARDEN ROWS

SHALLOW SPRINKLING ENCOURAGES SHALLOW ROOTS.



WATER THOROUGHLY SOAK SOIL TO ABOUT 6 INCHES WHEN SURFACE IS DRY



USE SPRINKLER NOZZLE ON THE CAN OR HOSE SO SOIL ISN'T WASHED AWAY.



Drip watering: FOR A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY, PLACE A WATER JUG (PLASTIC MILK JUG) NEAR PLANTS. WATER DRIPS OUT NAIL HOLE IN BOTTOM OF JUG.



REMINDER: FERTILIZE ABOUT THE 4th OF JULY WITH A HIGH NITROGEN FERTILIZER SUCH AS UREA DISCUSSED IN NO. 2 IN THIS SERIES.



KEYS TO SUCCESS

- THIN
- FERTILIZE
- WATER
- CONTROL WEEDS AND OTHER PESTS.

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