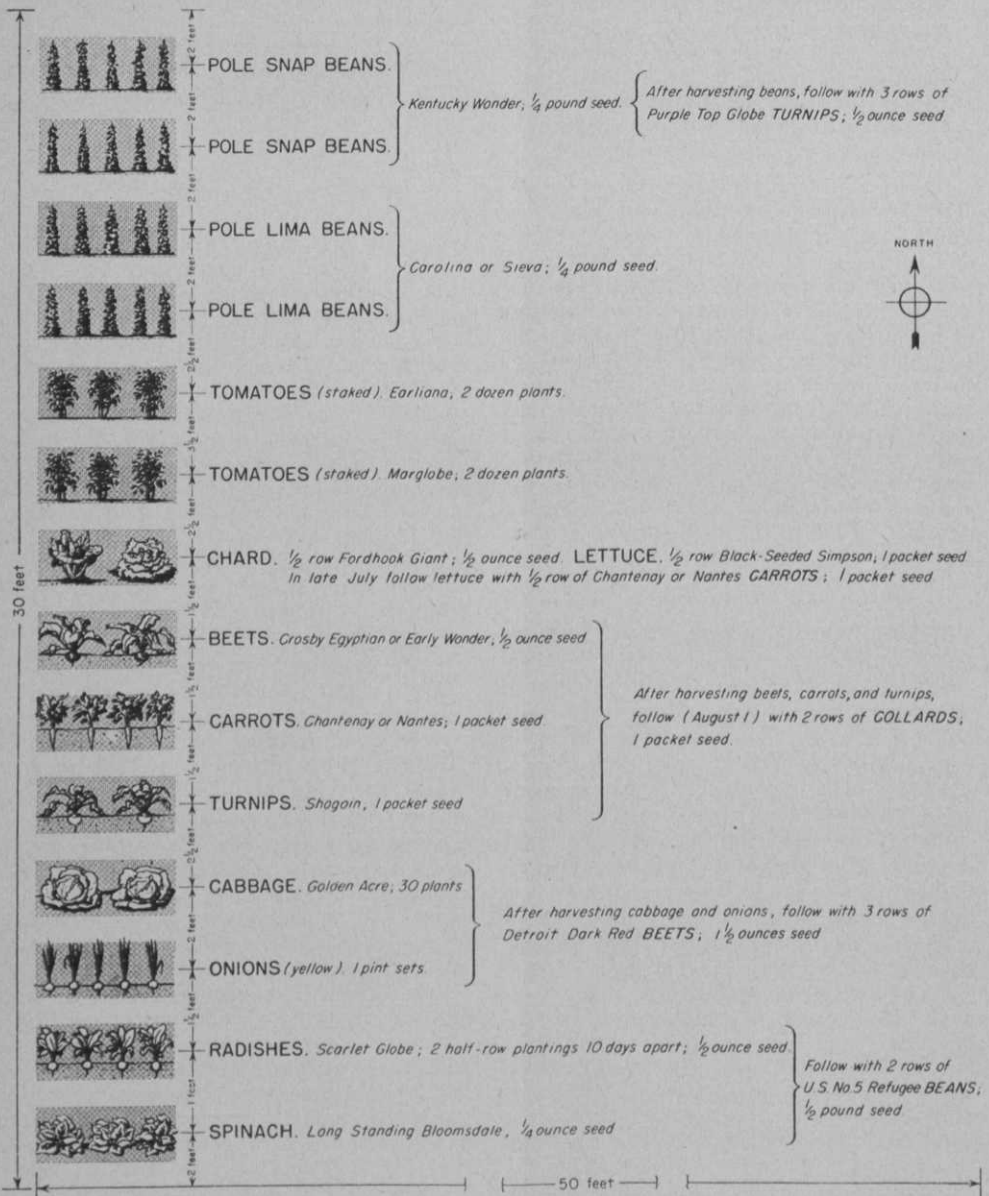


GOLF CLUBS TO PUSH

By JACK FULTON



Here is the sort of V-garden any club member, or his family, can maintain without too much labor. The plot, 30 ft. x 50 ft., will grow enough vegetables for a family of four or five and leave some produce over for preserving. But since no one plan suits all gardeners or all parts of the country, this scheme is to be taken as an example, not a recommendation. Consult your local V-garden Committee or county agent for data on type of vegetables that grow well in your community.

V-GARDENS

GOVERNMENT urgings, press and word-of-mouth publicity and good old-fashioned commonsense have combined to swing the nation's golfers and golf courses squarely behind the Victory Garden program. From all parts of the country word has come to GOLFDOM in the past few weeks of cooperation in the plan—of clubs allotting idle acreage to V-garden projects; of members and their wives flocking to sign up for plots; of greenkeepers, already worried about finding enough greensmen to maintain the course, yet gladly offering to find time, somehow, to see that the member-gardeners follow proper cultivation practices; of managers laying early plans for full utilization of clubhouse kitchen equipment for canning bees, to preserve the members' harvests.

Interest of club officials in having a member establish his V-garden at the club, rather than in some vacant land nearer his home, is not selfish. True, club officers are always interested in plans that bring a member to the club and thereby boost patronage of the clubhouse departments. But over and above this perfectly understandable ambition, there are many sound reasons for club-located vegetable plots. Here are some of them:

(1) The club has the equipment to plow and prepare the ground for the members. Members will undertake larger plots when this is done.

(2) Water will be available from the club's irrigation system.

(3) Seed, fertilizer, and pesticides can be bought by the club for resale at a saving to the individual member.

(4) The course superintendent and many garden-club members on the club roster are available for counsel and guidance.

(5) Clubs near larger metropolitan communities can offer more suitable ground and growing conditions than the member will normally find within city limits.

(6) The clubhouse kitchen, with its large cooking utensils and other equipment, is perfect for canning and preserving purposes.

(7) Club sponsored competitions will keep the V-gardeners on their toes through the season.

(8) Caddies, when not needed for toting, may be hired to help keep plots in shape.

(9) Most clubs have spades, rakes, and other tools on hand, which the members may borrow (under proper control, of course).

(10) Protection from pilfering can be made more complete on club property.

There is, as GOLFDOM pointed out last issue, another important reason for club-located V-gardens. It has to do with an unfortunate and wholly unjustified antagonism to golf as a suitable wartime activity that has sprung up in some sections of the country. Just what has caused this is uncertain, but it seems to spring from the oldtime popular concept that golf is a "rich man's game" despite its spread through all levels of society in the past twenty years.

Wholehearted V-garden activity by a substantial portion of a club's membership, backed by well placed local publicity, will help tremendously in counteracting this trend.

How to Organize V-Gardens

Here, without going too far into detail, is the recommended way to start a V-garden project at your club. First step is to appoint a V-garden chairman. Your green-chairman may be the man, provided he is a good organizer and has the time and tenacity to stick to the job through the season. If the green-chairman can't serve or won't do, find a Men's Garden Club member if you can to head the committee.

Step two is a tour of the club property by the chairman, in company with your greenkeeper, to select the most practical location for the gardens. Don't trust to memory on this; get out and look over each possibility carefully with such factors as these in mind: (1) Will it interfere with golf? (2) Is it convenient to the clubhouse? (3) Are the soil and terrain suitable? (4) Can water be piped to the area and outlets provided? (5) Is there tool and hose storage space nearby?

Having selected the V-garden area, the chairman's next job (and his largest, by the way) is to interest the members, their wives and often their children in the project. A great many members, it will be found, will be interested, but they need information and encouragement. The chairman should talk to every member he meets, answer questions, build enthusiasm. A notice should be mailed to every member of a V-garden meeting at the club, or in town if more practical. At the meeting have an experienced gardener paint a word-picture of what a V-garden will

mean this year, of the pleasure it can bring, of how an average of an hour a day will keep a fairly good sized garden producing abundantly, of the ease with which vegetables and fruits can be processed.

If possible, lend interest to the meeting through a display of home-canned products. Your local V-garden committee will help dramatize the meeting, and it has literature to pass out to your members, too.

At the close of the meeting plots should be assigned to interested members. A rough chart of the area planned for the gardens will be helpful. Don't let a member take on more than he can handle. A plot 30 ft. by 50 ft., with the long dimension running east and west, is being recommended as adequate to supply vegetables for a family of four or five. An acre of land will provide 30 plots of this size.

By the end of the meeting the chairman will know how much land will be required to accommodate the members' needs. Add a few plots for latecomers and then arrange to have the club plow and harrow the entire area the members will plant. It should also be fertilized, in which connection the USGA, in the latest issue of *Timely Turf Topics*, says:

"The only fertilizer which can now be bought for use on Victory Gardens is a 3-8-7 mixture known as the Victory Garden Special. If the fertilizer is broadcast over the entire garden area at the time of plowing and harrowing, probably 1,200 pounds of Victory Garden Special should be allowed for each acre. This is not the most economical way to use the fertilizer, but with labor and time at a premium it may be the desirable procedure.

Band Fertilizing Urged

"A more efficient use of the fertilizer is to apply in bands near each row at the time of seeding, not more than 1 pound of fertilizer to every 30 feet of row. If this method is used, each member must be responsible for fertilizing his garden as he plants it. In applying fertilizer in bands, great care should be taken that it does not come in direct contact with the seed, so as not to injure the seed or seedlings. The fertilizer should be placed in the soil in a band 3 or 4 inches wide about 2 inches from the line where the seed is to be planted and at about a 2-inch depth."

Other highlights from the USGA bulletin:

"Vegetables primarily recommended are

the leafy ones which protect human health by their high mineral and vitamin content. These include spinach, kale, cabbage, broccoli, etc. Tomatoes are always recommended because of their high vitamin C content and because they grow well in many sections. String beans also are a usual garden crop.

"The vegetables next recommended are the root crops which, as a rule, are energy-producing foods. These include potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, beets, parsnips, etc. Lima beans and sweet corn also are good energy foods, but corn particularly requires considerable space and therefore cannot always be included."

"Tools should be conserved. Keep them in good condition and well-oiled. If club tools are used by members in gardening, the members should be reminded of their value and the importance of putting them away clean and in as good condition as when they took them out."

Accompanying this article is a diagram of a typical V-garden, designed to produce all the vegetables an average family can use during the season and to leave considerable over for processing. No one plan can hope to suit all gardeners or all parts of the country, and club chairman are cautioned to consult the local V-garden committee for its advice.

If you're going to sponsor a Victory Garden program at your club, **get started now**. It takes time to organize a project of this type and because the season won't wait, time is the essence of the whole proposition. Some vegetables, for example, do poorly once hot weather has arrived, so seed must be in the ground at the proper planting time.

Golf has fitted itself into the War in amazing fashion. Aside from its recreational assets, it has done its part in bond and stamp purchases, scrap drives, Red Cross work and USO detail. Now it has the opportunity to contribute further by helping in food production.

Lester J. Norris, vice-president of the National Victory Garden Institute, says: "Now that the seriousness of the food shortage in this country has become a reality with the institution of food rationing, the golf clubs can, and undoubtedly will, play a part in the home food production campaign. Proper leadership in the club and a seriousness of purpose on the part of the members themselves will assure success."