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Hepler, J. R.

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# WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

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## That Vegetable Garden

By

**J. R. HEPLER**

of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin



MAKING OUT HIS ANNUAL SEED ORDER.

Use good seed, preferably those from a reliable seed firm.  
Avoid freaks and novelties.

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File this bulletin where you can find it

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Distributed by

**Wisconsin Bankers' Association**

**G. W. Dudley**  
Chairman Agricultural Committee,  
West Salem

**George D. Bartlett,**  
Association Secretary,  
Pabst Building, Milwaukee

# That Vegetable Garden

The vegetable garden, if properly handled, is the most profitable half-acre on the farm. It will yield a continuous supply of fresh vegetables, which will provide a pleasant change of diet throughout the year and promote the general health of the family.

## Have Garden Near House

Most of the work of planting and cultivating is done in spare minutes and the vegetables are generally harvested by the housewife, who does not have time to go to the far end of the farm. The garden then should be located near the house so that it will be convenient. The shade of buildings or trees should be avoided as much as possible. A southern exposure is preferable because the soil where so exposed warms up early in the spring.

The size of the garden depends upon the amount of vegetables wanted, but, in most cases, it need not be larger than half an acre. By taking slightly more than an acre of ground, planting small fruits and such perennial vegetables as rhubarb and asparagus, in the center and alternating vegetables with clover on either side, a two-year rotation may be followed. In this way the ravages of disease and insects are lessened and the soil is improved by plowing under the clover.

## Follow a Definite Plan

In planning a garden, keep the following points in mind:

1. Aim to provide a constant supply of the vegetables preferred by the family.
2. Grow only vegetables of high quality.
3. The early short-season crops such as radishes, lettuce, spinach, early peas and early onions, may be followed by beans, tomatoes, late cabbage, sweet corn, or turnips.
4. Each crop should have sufficient room for its best development and to allow proper tillage.
5. It is desirable to have the rows of the larger and longer-season crops far enough apart to permit horse cultivation. The smaller vegetables may be planted somewhat closer if they are to be tilled with a hand cultivator.

## Barnyard Fertilizer Best

Nearly all vegetables require a large amount of organic matter in the soil. This can best be supplied in the form of well-rotted barnyard manure used at the rate of about twelve to twenty tons for each acre. Commercial fertilizers are of little benefit except in very poor soils.

The fertilizer should be applied in the spring and then



turned under. Frequent and thorough diskings of the soil before planting will aid greatly in controlling weeds and will provide a better seed bed for the vegetables. After planting, the garden should be cultivated often enough to keep down the weeds and prevent a crust from forming on the surface of the soil.

### **Advance the Season by Using a Hotbed**

Use a hotbed for starting plants such as early cabbage, tomatoes, eggplant, pepper and head lettuce which do not have time to mature properly if started outdoors. The hotbed should be located on the south side of a building where it will get the full benefit of the sun's rays and the protection afforded by the building. Dig the pit two feet deep, and make the frame of one and one-half inch boards. The frame should be twelve inches high on the north side and six on the south. The standard width of a hotbed is six feet, while its length depends on the number of sash available.

Fill the pit with fresh horse manure which has begun to heat evenly. Pack the manure well, especially around the edge of the pit, and put four inches of rich garden loam on top. In about three days the temperature will have dropped sufficiently so that the bed will be ready for the seed. Sow it in rows three inches apart. The seed should be started about March 10. Transplant the seedlings at least once before planting them in the garden.

### **Plant Seed That Grows**

The seed used in the garden and in the hotbed should be of the best and should be purchased from a reliable seed firm. If the seed is bought from the grocery store, insist upon getting seed that is fresh and will grow. Some of our vegetable seed, such as tomatoes, beans, squash, cucumbers and muskmelons can easily be grown at home. Care must be taken, however, that the seed is selected from the best plants and that the varieties do not cross.

### **Avoid Untested Varieties**

For the home garden, choose standard varieties rather than freaks or novelties. They should be of the highest quality and should be so selected that they will mature throughout the whole season. Usually two or three varieties are sufficient. For example, Jersey Wakefield, Succession, and Danish Ballhead form a succession of high class varieties of cabbage that cover the whole season. An early and a late variety, such as Bonny Best and Stone, are sufficient for tomatoes.

The earliest planting in the garden includes the hardier vegetables such as radish, peas, lettuce, spinach, early turnip, and onions, and is made as soon as the ground is fit to work,



usually the latter part of April. Plant about ten feet of row for radish and lettuce and twenty of turnips and spinach. Make succession plantings every two weeks until June to provide a continuous supply. The main crop of onions should be started at this time and 200 feet of row is not too much. Sets may be used for both the early onions and the storing onions, but onions matured from seed will keep better than those grown from sets.

### Make Several Plantings

The first planting of peas should consist of fifty feet of the Alaska variety. Succession plantings of Gradus or Excelsior may be made every two weeks until hot weather.

Carrots, rutabagas, parsnips, and beets are started around May 10. The amounts of these vegetables planted depend upon the size and tastes of the family, but should not exceed 100 feet of row. The Chantenay carrot, Breadstone rutabaga, Guernsey parsnip, and Detroit Dark Red beet, are good varieties for the home garden.

Three plantings of cabbage should be made, the first around May 10 for the early crop, the second about June 10 for fall use, and the third about June 25 to provide storing cabbage. Start the seed six weeks before the plants are needed for transplanting. A supply of summer greens may be had by planting about ten feet to Swiss chard.

Although sweet corn is not entirely hardy, the early crop may be started at this time. Succession planting should be made until July 1. Golden Bantam, which excels in quality, Early Minnesota, and Country Gentleman are favorite varieties.

Tomatoes, cucumbers, muskmelons and squash are all very tender to frost and must not be planted earlier than June 1, or until the ground has warmed up. From 25 to 40 tomato plants and 20 to 25 hills of each of the above vine crops will provide a sufficient supply for the average family.

Mineral salts are obtained from string beans, asparagus, tomatoes, carrots, and numbers of other vegetables. They make red blood, strong bones and teeth, and save doctors' bills.

Protein is obtained from peas and beans. It keeps the body in repair by building up the cells and tissues. This means health and strength.

Carbohydrates are obtained from potatoes. They furnish the body with heat and energy. Energy means better work and bigger bank accounts.

Make three or four plantings of string beans, two weeks apart. Endive and celery provide the table with greens in the fall and should be planted about July 10.