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## Have a backyard garden. Circular 72 April, 1917

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[Madison, Wisconsin]: University of Wisconsin, Agricultural Extension Service, April, 1917

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# Have a Backyard Garden

Your family can also serve  
the nation by growing much  
of the food it will need  
next fall and winter.

**“The hoe in the backyard is  
mighty good backing for the  
flag on the front porch.”**

Published under the direction of the State Council of Defense  
by the Agricultural Extension Service of the  
University of Wisconsin

# Have a Backyard Garden

J. G. MOORE AND J. R. HEPLER

Spade up the backyard and put in a garden.

There is still time and, if you stay by it, you will be surprised to find how much food you can raise on a very small space.

Besides, there never was a time when the planting of a garden was so important. The world is short of food and each family should do its part by growing as much as it can of the supply which it will use this summer and need next fall and winter.

## WILL YOU DO YOUR PART?

Thousands of town and city men and women are already doing what they can to overcome this shortage. They are growing just as many vegetables as possible for winter storage and canning, as well as for summer use.

“Foot for foot, gardens in city or country yield 10 to 15 times more abundantly than farm land devoted to general crops. The gardener is an intensive farmer on a small scale. A half-acre easily produces vegetables worth \$100 at normal prices, while smaller tracts do even better.”

There is another point that must be emphasized—this is not the time for half-hearted attempts at gardening. The slogan of this nation-wide movement is “GET IN AND STAY IN.” If you are not determined to “stick,” don’t start; but before deciding consider carefully what the decision may mean to you and your family next winter. The food shortage will be felt most next winter.

**“Remember it requires more than talk and a few five-cent packages of garden seeds to make a profitable backyard garden.”**

Don’t hesitate to grow vegetables for winter use. The Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Wisconsin is

preparing and will send information later telling just how to store and preserve the surplus supplies. Write now for a copy. It will be sent you in time for use.

### GROW EVERY-DAY VEGETABLES

Plant the things that count most. Don't waste space and energy by growing crops that require relatively large areas. All of the space in a *small* garden is too valuable to plant any of it to potatoes and vine crops. If you have time to plant and care for it borrow a vacant lot on which to grow these space-consuming crops.

Even sweet corn should not be used unless you plan to grow early vegetables like lettuce and radishes between the rows. And while we are on the subject of corn, why not plan now to dry some for next winter's use? If you don't know how, read the suggestions in that circular on drying, canning, and preserving.

### MAKE THE GARDEN ON PAPER FIRST

Measure your lot and then plan your garden on paper. The more carefully it is worked out the better. In making the plan first take care of the winter vegetables; the summer vegetables will take care of themselves. Plan to make every foot of the garden produce the maximum by growing quick-maturing vegetables between the rows of long season crops and in the rows to be devoted to late-planted vegetables.

If you plan right, care for the garden properly, and have favorable conditions, a garden 25 x 40 feet should produce most of the vegetables, except potatoes, needed for a family of four or five. In addition, it will furnish an abundance of the smaller summer vegetables. Look over the accompanying plan and see if it won't give you some ideas for your emergency garden. Locate the permanent crops first and then work in the temporary ones. The permanent crops to grow for the winter supply, and that can still be planted, are beets, late cabbage, carrots, onions, parsnips, rutabagas, turnips, tomatoes, and possibly celery, beans and salsify.

# AN EMERGENCY GARDEN PLAN

9"	----- STRING BEANS PLANT MAY 25 -----	
15"	+EARLY +TURNIPS+ ----- + AND + LATE+ ----- +TOMATO+ES	
18"	----- PEAS PLANT BEFORE MAY 15 -----	
18"	+EARLY +TURNIPS + ----- + AND + LATE + TOMATO+ES -----	
18"	----- PEAS PLANT BEFORE MAY 15 -----	
12"	+SPINACH+ OR +LETTUCE AND+ LATE+ TOMATOES + -----	
12"	----- FIRST SEEDING LETTUCE OR LETTUCE PLANTS -----	
12"	----- SECOND SEEDING LETTUCE -----	
12"	----- ONION SETS PLANT 2 INCHES APART -----	
12"	----- ONION SETS PULL ALTERNATE ONES AND USE -----	
18"	----- ONION SETS AS GREEN ONIONS -----	
18"	----- BEETS -----	
18"	----- BEETS -----	
18"	----- CARROTS -----	
18"	----- CARROTS -----	
18"	----- CARROTS -----	
18"	----- PARSNIPS -----	
18"	----- PARSNIPS -----	
24"	----- SALSIFY ----- BEETS --- OR --- CARROTS -----	
18"	----- FIRST RADISH ----- CELERY ----- SPINACH -----	
18"	----- 17 CABBAGES 18 INCHES APART -----	
24"	----- SECOND RADISH ----- CELERY ----- THIRD RADISH -----	
24"	----- EARLY PEAS (Plant in April) ----- CABBAGE ----- (Set plants last of June 2 ft. apart)	
24"	----- EARLY PEAS (Plant in April) ----- CABBAGE ----- (Set plants last of June 2 ft. apart)	
12"	----- BEANS -----	
12"	----- TURNIPS -----	
12"	----- BEANS -----	
12"	----- TURNIPS ----- WINTER RADISH ----- IOIOLE RADISH -----	

40 0"

## PREPARE SOIL WELL

Manure, preferably well-rotted, street sweepings which are free from oil, rotted leaves or grass will prove beneficial on most garden plots. Use manure if it is possible to secure it. A heavy soil which has a tendency to bake and become lumpy may be improved by applying sifted coal ashes. Put on enough to produce the desired soil texture and mix them thoroughly with the soil.



YOUNG RECRUITS IN UNCLE SAM'S GARDEN-ARMY

In many cities of this state real state agents are turning over vacant lots to organized groups of children who make their gardens under the supervision of some responsible person.

Plow or spade at least seven or eight inches deep. If the sub-soil comes close to the surface, spade only deep enough to work an inch or two of it into the surface soil. Turn small forkfuls or spadefuls and break up the large lumps with the fork. Work the soil until the upper two or three inches are as nearly dust-like as practical, and level it off with the rake. It is then ready for the seeds or plants.

## AS TO PLANTING DATES

Sow seed for late tomatoes and celery in a shallow box indoors at once. You may not be able to buy plants later on. Plant early beets, carrots, lettuce, onions (sets and seed),

peas, radishes, spinach, early turnips as soon as the garden is ready.

Plant late beets, parsnips, salsify and seed for late cabbage about May 1 to 5.

Plant beans, corn, cucumbers, squash, and set tomatoes out of doors after the danger of frosts is past.

Set late cabbage and celery the last of June.

Sow late turnips and winter radishes late in July.

Radishes, leaf lettuce, peas and corn may be planted at intervals of two weeks until June 10 to provide a constant supply, and beans and corn until July 1.

#### DON'T SLIGHT THE HOEING

If you hoe before the weeds get started, your hoeing is easy. If you let the weeds get well rooted the hoeing is all hard. Besides this frequent hoeing gives a dust mulch which conserves moisture and keeps a good bed about the tender plants. Good hoeing greatly increases the yield, so hoe at least once a week and after each rain. Stir all the surface soil; more than half of the gardeners don't half hoe their ground. Hoe shallow—the roots are near the surface. Don't work the soil when it is too moist. If you have a heavy soil and are in doubt squeeze a handful of it; if it breaks up readily in your fingers on being released, it is ready to work. Hoeing while ground is too wet causes lumps which necessitate additional labor. Keep all weeds out. They compete with the plants and reduce the crop.

#### VEGETABLES FOR THE BACK LOT GARDEN

Beans, bush—Pencil Pod, Wardwell's wax, Refugee wax, Stringless Green Pod, Bountiful

Beets—Crosby's Egyptian, Detroit dark red

Carrots—Chantenay, Danvers, Oxheart

Cabbage—Early Jersey Wakefield, Danish Ballhead, Flat Dutch

Celery, winter—Winter queen, Giant pascal

Celery, self-blanching—Golden self-blanching, White Plume

Corn—Golden Bantam, Stowell's Evergreen (late)

Lettuce, leaf—Black-seeded Simpson, Grand Rapids

Lettuce, head—Big Boston, Hanson

Onions—Yellow Globe, Danvers, Southport White Globe, Red Wethersfield

Parsnips—Guernsey, Hollow Crown

Peas—Alaska, Gradus, Little Marvel, Telephone

Radishes, early—Scarlet globe, Scarlet Turnip, White-Tipped

Radishes, summer—Icicle, Chartier

Radishes, winter—White celestial, Chinese Rose

Spinach—Long standing, Long Season

Tomatoes—Bonny Best, Stone, Globe, Ponderosa

At critical periods of drought the garden may be watered. Don't sprinkle your garden once a day; water it once a week if necessary.

#### A WORD OF WARNING

**Don't quit. Don't put in your seed and then let your enthusiasm cool. Remember "the hoe used in the backyard is mighty good backing for the flag on the front porch."**



### Some Garden Don'ts

Don't sprinkle your garden. Water it once a week if necessary.

Don't let the weeds get a start.

Don't permit the surface soil to become compact or lumpy.

Don't cultivate a heavy soil when it is too moist.

Don't let the "bugs" get your plants. This means you must watch plants closely.

Don't waste your time planting lettuce, peas, turnips, spinach, and other "cool" crops during hot weather.

Don't try to cultivate too much land, especially if it is sod. Intensive work on a small area usually gives better returns than the same amount put on a large area.

Don't plant seeds too deep. They should be only deep enough to get sufficient moisture for germination. Peas and corn are exceptions to this rule.

Don't procrastinate. "A stitch in time saves nine" in gardening.

Don't slight the hoeing. Hoeing is one of the chief elements of success in gardening.

Don't use commercial fertilizers indiscriminately. When it comes to commercial fertilizers "Be sure you are right," before you go ahead.

Don't experiment. Use only standard vegetables, proven varieties and established methods. This is no time for experiments.

Don't forget that your boy and girl would like a chance to show their patriotism by helping produce food.

Don't quit. You, your family, and your country will be the losers if you do.