

How to plant

LITITZ — The cooperative extension service of Penn State has these helpful hints for planting garden plants and seeds

-Keep the garden area producing crops throughout the entire growing season

-Companion cropping or intercropping is a desirable practice if the plot is small. Companion cropping is the growing of two or

more crops in the same row, or in alternate rows For example, a couple of rows of onion sets, or green onions, can be planted between rows of cabbage, the onions being pulled before the cabbage needs the room

-Succession cropping is practiced by planting one crop after another on the same ground in the same season. An example is to

plant beans after the early peas are harvested

-Do not plant the same or closely related crops in succession

-Plant long season crops together Quick maturing crops should be planted together and harvested and the area then planted to a single late crop

Too close planting should be avoided

Allow enough space between rows to permit cultivation and natural spread of the plants

Extensive plantings of one or two easy-to-grow crops are usually wasteful Several small plantings should be made throughout the season.

When to Plant

When to plant, as the service seems to testify, is sometimes a lot of guess work Time of first planting depends upon location, as influenced by latitude, altitude, exposure of the garden, and kind of vegetables to be planted.

By May 15, southern and southeastern sections generally are free from frosty weather By May 20, the extension says there is little danger of frost in most of Pennsylvania. As late as June 1, frost may occur in high altitudes in the central and northern parts of the state.

In the extension's recent circular, "Grow Your Own Vegetables," they classify vegetables into four groups according to their temperature requirements

-Very hardy crops include the vegetables that are not injured by severe midwinter freezing, such as asparagus, horseradish, parsnip, rhubarb, salsify, and winter onion

Hardy crops thrive during cool weather and will withstand frosts of spring and early fall, but not severe freezing Such crops are cabbage, cauliflower, beets, carrots, turnips, lettuce, endive, onions, peas, radish, and spinach All crops falling in the very hardy and the hardy groups can be

planted with safety as early in the spring as the group can be prepared

-Tender crops are those which are quickly injured by frost, such as snap beans, sweet corn, cucumber, squash, and tomato.

-Very tender crops are those that may be injured by continued cool weather without frost. They should not be planted until the ground has become warm. Such crops are lima beans, eggplant, cantaloupe, and pepper —DK



Tomatoes tempt appetites all year round, so plant plenty during the summer. No garden is complete and no appetite is complete without them.

Gardening season

(Continued from Page C16)

grapes are especially suited for the small home garden

Raspberries, blueberries and grapes need to be planted in a permanent spot where plenty of light can reach them

Grapes need a trellis for support Plant them 8 to 10 feet apart.

Raspberries need support too But leave only 2 to 3 feet between plants.

Blueberries, the ingredient to a popular pie, are very attractive as a hedge to cover whatever you need to hide (like an unweeded garden) Allow 5 feet between blueberry plants

Strawberries are less permanent than other fruits. Keep beds for 2 to 3 years and then renew the stock and relocate the bed to help prevent disease Set strawberries 12 inches apart in rows 24 inches apart

Remember they will not bear fruit the first season Grapes take 2 to 3 years and blueberries 3 to 4 years

Grapes, raspberries and blueberries also require pruning

Remember the choices for a garden are all yours, but then so will be the vegetables and fruits after all the work is over; so enjoy that summer garden.

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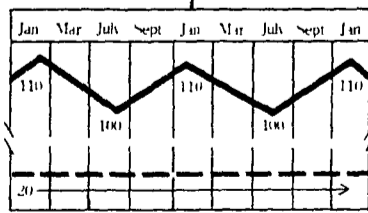
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