

**Seeding,
Weeding
and mulch
more**

For the avid gardener

Three most productive crops

Onions, green beans and tomatoes are three of the most productive crops you can grow in a home garden. With proper care at planting time and minimal attention during the growing season, they'll produce abundantly right up to the first hard frost in the fall.

Onions are one of the first crops that can be set out in the spring, but there's still time to plant some if you haven't done so yet. Start with sets or plants, rather than seeds. Sets, which are easy to come by, are actually small onions that were started the previous year. Look for "Ebenezer" and "Yellow Glove" — two of the most popular varieties for the home garden.

Onions need fertile soil to produce well. Use 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 fertilizer at planting and sidedress plants with nitrogen about six weeks later. This fertilizer is needed to produce a good green color and rapid growth.

If you intend to harvest them as mature bulbs, plant sets 3 to 4 inches apart and 1-1/2 to 2 inches deep. For scallions, plants or sets should be 1-1/2 to 2 inches apart and 3 to 4 inches deep. Pull green onion whenever they reach edible size, starting with largest ones first. Harvest your dry-bulb crop after the majority of the tops have dried and are bent over.

For a satisfying yield, green or wax beans are one of the easiest and quickest crops to grow, says the specialist. Most beans require little space to grow and are adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions. It takes only 50 to 60 days from seed to produce a good crop of snap beans.

You have a choice between pole or bush type plants, when it comes to beans. There are differences in taste, as well as differences in length of harvest period for each type.

One planting of pole beans will give you a two-to-three month harvest, as opposed to only three weeks for bush beans. Pole beans are also somewhat easier to pick, because you don't have to do so much bending over. But bush beans have the advantage of taking up less space, and with several plantings about ten days apart, you can get almost a continuous harvest over a three to four month period.

A favorite bush bean variety is "Tenderette"—a velvety green-podded bean. But for people interested in trying something a little different, some purple-podded beans. These grow on a bush type plant that produces a tender, stringless purple pod that turns deep green when it's cooked.

If you're wondering how many

beans to plant, figure on a yield of about a pound of beans from every two feet of row.

To get the most mileage out of tomatoes, plant several varieties with different maturity dates. There are a number of good ones to choose from, all resistant to fusarium and verticillium wilts.

For canning, a good variety is Roma VF. The plant yields an abundant harvest of firm fruit right up to a hard frost.

Two mid-season, all-purpose varieties are Floramerica and Heinz 1350. Other good varieties are Supersonic, Jet Star and Better Boy.

If you're looking for tomatoes weighing a pound or more, go to the Beefsteak or Ponderosa types. These give extra large fruit that's good for fresh eating. Just be prepared for a bit less flavor and texture than the smaller fruited varieties. Also, plants will yield less and may be less resistant to disease.

Speaking of diseases, blossom end rot is one problem home gardeners can reduce with careful cultural practices. Mulch plants well and maintain an even soil moisture over the growing season to reduce losses to this physiological condition.

A final word of advice: don't try to rush the season. It's just begun and late plantings when the weather is warmer tend to catch up with earlier ones—with less chance of losing plants to frost.



Boyertown slates quilt show

BOYERTOWN — Once again this spring, members of the Boyertown Area Historical Society will be holding one of their most interesting projects - their annual quilt show.

This will be the ninth year for the show, slated for Saturday, April 30, 10 to 6 and Sunday, May 1, noon to 6. The event will be staged in the Society building, 43 South Chestnut Street, Boyertown.

The display, which contains over 100 quilts, old and new, has attracted hundreds of visitors. For novice quilters, Society members will be stitching and can provide advice to interested onlookers.

On exhibit will also be a rust and brown "Twist" pattern quilt, which seems to embody a flowing motion. The quilt was just recently completed by Society members and friends.

This year's special display will concentrate on crazy quilts. This textile was usually composed of satin or velvet and featured richly colored fabrics, decorated with ornate hand-embroidery. The late

Victorian era was the "golden age" of crazy quilts, and most of those on view date from 1890 to 1920.

Another highlight of the show will be a lecture on marking quilts by Ann Burrows, quilt supervisor of the Kutztown Folk Festival. The lecture will be held Saturday, April 30, 10:30 and 2:30 at the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, Boyertown. Mrs. Burrows will discuss all facets of marking quilt tops from the basic "how to" to selection of appropriate designs. The presentation will supply fundamental information on a phase of quilt making that stymies many quilters. The cost of the lecture is \$4 per person. Reservations may be secured by making a check payable to the Boyertown Area Historical Society and sending it and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Mrs. Richard Irely, 16 Fairview Street, Boyertown., PA 19512.

There is a \$1.50 donation for the show, children under 16 admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

Montgomery Co. plans tractor safety course

NORRISTOWN — The Montgomery Extension Service and the 4-H Clubs will offer a tractor safety certification course for area youth, beginning April 26.

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, all 14 or 15 year-olds who plan to be employed off the home farm and will operate a tractor of over 20 PTO horse power, must have evidence of satisfactory completion of such a course.

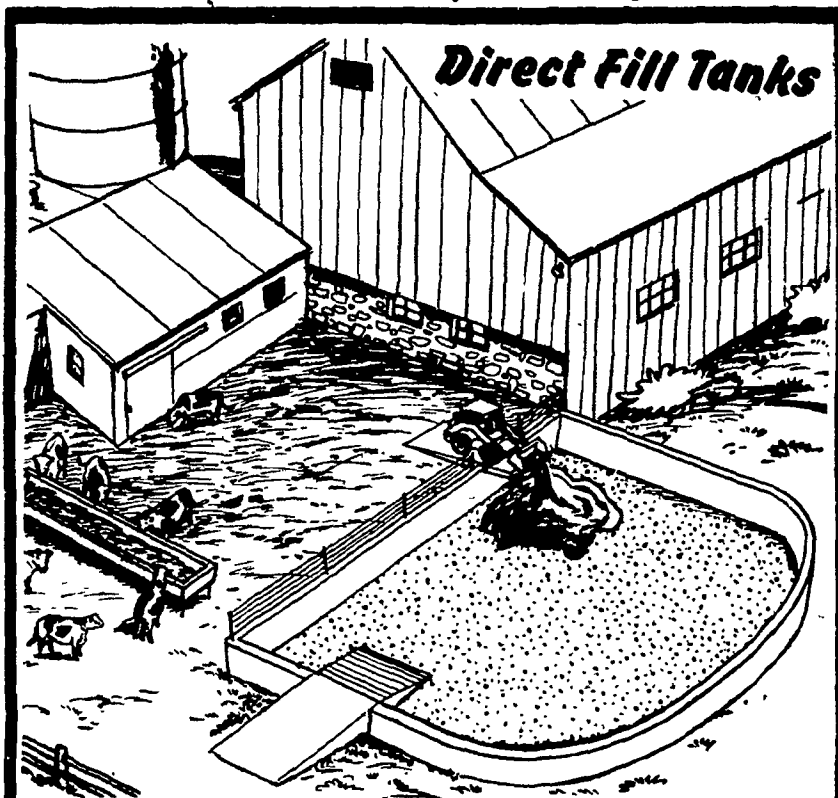
The course will continue evenings May 3, 10, and 17, at 7:30

p.m., and will conclude with a driving exam on Saturday morning, May 21.

All classes will be held at the Western Montgomery Co. Vo-Tech School, located on Graterford and Sunset Roads, off Rt. 422 in Limerick.

Although the course is geared for 14 and 15 year-olds, anyone is invited to attend.

To reserve a spot in the class, contact County Agent Nancy M. Kadwill.



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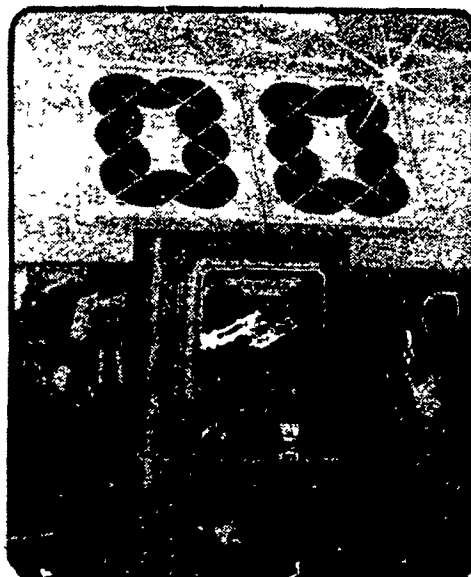
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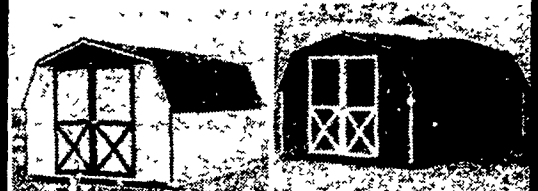


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