

Seeding, Weeding

and mulch more

For the avid gardener



Plant a late garden for fall vegetables

It's still not too late to start a garden or to add vegetables to the one you already have. Between now and August 15, you can set out broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower plants. Vegetables that can still be seeded until August 5 include Chinese cabbage, endive and kale. From August 10 until September 15, you can make several small plantings of lettuce, radishes and spinach.

University of Delaware extension agricultural agent Derby

Walker says a late garden can stretch your dollars by providing you with fresh vegetables throughout the fall. If you plant lettuce, radishes and spinach where they are protected from heavy freezes — in a cold frame, for example — you could harvest them for your Thanksgiving table, and perhaps even later.

If you protect tomatoes from disease and insect damage, your tomato harvest could continue into October, Walker says. When frost threatens, you can protect the plants by temporarily covering them with black plastic film or old bed sheets at night, or harvest the mature green tomatoes for later fresh eating or pickling.

Since fall weather is cooler, many late vegetables such as spinach and Brussels sprouts can be kept outdoors for fresh harvest, then brought in to be used as needed. Some, like cauliflower, are sensitive to a hard freeze but can wishstand a light frost with no injury.

Quality of fall vegetables is often higher than for earlier crops. Another advantage of a fall garden is that there are normally fewer weeds to worry about. However, cabbage worms and aphids may cause problems. Both can be controlled with chemical insecticides. Alternately, cabbage worms can be controlled with a natural material, Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt), which is sold under several trade names.

August heat can be hard on transplants, but this problem, too, has an effective solution. Set out your plants in the evening, and water them well to reduce the shock of transplanting. Placing peach baskets or similar sunshields over the tender plants for

the first few days also helps. Continue to water frequently until the plants become well established.

Just because many people give

up gardening in August doesn't mean you have to. With a little added effort now, Walker says, you will be well rewarded with fresh vegetables throughout the fall.



Saturday, August 11

Lancaster Society 2 meets for an auction and games at 5:30 p.m. at Ruhl's Grove. Bring unwrapped prizes for bingo.

Lancaster Society 25 meets for a hobo party.

Tuesday, August 14
Lancaster Society 22 meets for a food sale.

Thursday, August 16
Lancaster Society 15 meets at 6:30
p.m. for a family picnic at

Colerain Community Park.
Bring a covered dish.

Saturday, August 18
Lancaster Society 3 meets at 12:30
p.m. for a visit to the Mueller
sisters at 2641 Willow Street

Lancaster Society 18 meets for a food and white elephant sale.

Lancaster Society 5 meets for a covered dish picnic. Husbands are invited.



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