

This is the third in a series of is available for \$5.50 at the York articles on WWII Victory Gardens.

For victory garden planting and seed starting suggestions, contact the Extension office. For a limited time a packet of gardening guides

County Extension office. Call (717) 757-9657. The packet contains a victory garden guide, seed planting guide, vegetable growing fact sheets and more.

Vegetable gardens were enthu-

siastically planted from 1943 to 1946. Victory gardens in 1945 supplied more than a third of all vegetables consumed in the United States. Officials at all levels of government explained the need for gardening as a source of food. Today, backyard gardens supply only a fraction of what we can consume of vegetables. In many gardens only specialty vegetables particular family favorites are grown like sweet corn, salsify or chinese cabbage.

Each vegetable type requires a different amount of space. Crops requiring added space include peas, sweet corn, snap beans, and muskmelons. The same garden vegetables challenge us today as 50 years ago.

Muskmelons, watermelon, celery, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, eggplant and potatoes are risky for

phone (717) 944-4427.

the first-time gardener.

Many of the crops grown for winter storage are particularly easy. Why not try carrots, beets, rutabagas, kohlrabi, turnips, salsify, danish cabbage, red cabbage, and chinese cabbage.

Locate your victory vegetable garden to allow a minimum of six hours of direct morning and afternoon sun. Keep away from large trees especially black walnut and butternut trees. Both these trees produce a toxin known as "Juglone." When present in the soil, affected plants frequently wilt, turn yellow and eventually die.

Vegetables sensitive to the toxin include tomato, potato, pea, cabbage, muskmelon, and others. Many ornamental plants and fruit trees are also sensitive including apple, pear, sour cherry, red pine, white pine and Rhododendron.

Remember that buildings and fences cast shadows and provide unwanted shade. Plant climbers like beans to the north, short crops to the south. Bring in topsoil or compost if poor garden soil conditions exist.

In the early '40s gardeners were

admonished not to waste seeds. Today, even if seeds have been stored under optimal conditions, it's a good idea to do a germination test to check on seed viability before doing any serious propagation. The procedure is simple: place 10 seeds between moist paper towels or cover with a thin layer of soil. Be sure to keep the seed moist at all times and place in a warm location (the top of the fridge is a good place, and a good reason to clean there!)

Wait for the usual germination time required for those particular seeds (this is stated on the packet a good reason for keeping the original packet). If fewer than six seeds germinate, it's a good idea to buy a fresh batch. However, if you can't bear to throw those seeds away, just sow them extra thick and be prepared for another purchase if not enough plants are produced.

Do not plant seeds when the soil is too wet. Soil should be loose and soft. Avoid planting fine seeds when the soil is wet. To retain moisture after planting, cover seeds immediately. Firm the soil lightly. Cover summer seeded vegetables with a board to retain moisture.

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DOWNINGTOWN

(Chester Co.) - The seventh annual Greater Philadelphia Writers Conference will be held Friday and Saturaday, April 28-29, at Calvary Fellowship Church, Dowingtown. In addition, a new preconference day for beginners will be held Thursday, April 27.

Marlene Bagnuii, conference director, will present as plenary speakers, John and Elizabeth Sherrill of "Guideposts," magazine; Col. Henry Gariepy, National Literary Secretary and editor of the Salvation Army; Milton E. Owens, former director of Judson Press and now executive director of The American Baptist Church's Housing for the Elderly.

In addition, 48 workshops and several critique sessions led by qualified faculty will cover a wide variety of topics and techniques in writing. Professional 🕅 critiquing will be available on a limited basis, and representatives and | editors from 38 Christian publishers will be 🐔 available for advice and interviews.

For brochures and further information.





