

**All Gardens  
Great & Small**  
by  
York Co.  
Horticultural Agent  
**Tom Becker**



"My parents idea of gardening was to grow all they could and load it onto a truck and peddle it in town. My mother teaching me to can vegetables was another way to pass information from generation to generation. That really has been a victory in itself."

"The legacy of victory gardens is what we learned from those who gardened in the '40s. In our family, everyone looks to our grandparents and their vegetable patch as the gardeners to emulate. We are all victory gardeners if we follow the gardening practices of preceding generations."

Remembrances of gardens past include many planting tips. Here are a few victory garden tips you'll enjoy.

Remember the time of year that a vegetable grows best. Radishes grow best in the spring and fall and not in the heat of summer. They mature in 25-35 days. Beets can be

planted as soon as the ground is workable up to mid-summer since most varieties mature in 60 days.

Vegetables maturing at the same time should be planted together. Get the soil ready as soon as the soil can be dug. Plant a quick maturing crop between ones that take a long time to mature. Use radish or lettuce for intercropping with peas. Plan to have your soil producing at all times (succession planting). Follow early peas with late turnips, beets, snap beans, or spinach.

Eat early onions first. They are not good keepers. White varieties are the quickest to spoil. Red varieties keep the best followed by yellow types.

The gardener who keeps hens should plant a few green rape or swiss chard to provide continuous feed. Small autumn cabbage supply a winter food along with red

beets.

The scarlet runner bean is a first-class vegetable as well as a most colorful vine. Train it on a lattice or fence. It occupies little space and produces an amazing amount of food.

If your garden is level, work horse or cow manure into the garden in the early spring. Start your plants from seed rather than buying them. This conserves our scarce seed supply. Use the flat side of a hoe to tamp down seeds after planting to get rid of air pockets. Use a hoe or scuffle hoe to remove weeds while they are small.

When planting seeds such as carrots which take longer to sprout, plant a few radish seeds which sprout quickly, thus marking the rows and making weeding easier.

Using starter solutions of fertilizers at planting would be an interesting experiment to conduct. Make your own starter solution of 4-8-4 fertilizer with 5 gallons of water and using one cup of the mix per plant. Compare it to the standard manure tea made with a half barrel of dry manure mixed with 2 barrels of water.

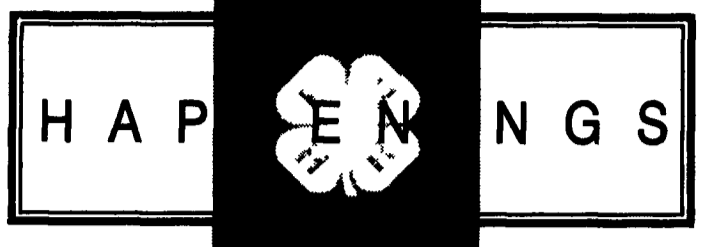
Mulch the garden after planting with straw or grass clippings. Cover your transplants with wax paper, jars, baskets, newspaper cones for animal and frost protection. Grow a few flowers for fragrance-mignonette, heliotrope, nicotiana or sweet alyssum.

Lastly, mix fine soil or sand

with small seeds before sowing to save thinning later.

For more information on victory gardening, ask for the "Vegetables for Victory" packet available at the Extension Office, call Sara at (717) 757-9657. Cost is \$5.50 per copy and includes: Small (30 ft. x 50 ft.) victory garden plans, oral

history/brief remembrances, victory gardens emergence through history and vegetable planting tips from the 1940s, companion planting guide, seed planting guide, heirloom seeds explained, vegetable growing fact sheets, York County farmer markets and locating a suitable plot for gardening.



**4-H Horticulture Projects**

The Bucks County 4-H will be offering Fun To Do Horticulture Projects for the spring and summer of 1995.

The Great Pumpkin Project affords Bucks County youth the opportunity to grow several different pumpkins from seed or transplants through maturity and harvest. Youth are given the seeds and plants to begin the project. They observe, nurture, and keep records on their pumpkins for the program.

In the fall, youth will harvest their prize pumpkins and participate in the Pumpkin Roundup held in conjunction with the Churchville Nature Center's Pumpkin Weigh-In and Pumpkin Festival. The 4-H Red, White and Yellow

Potato project lets youth grow several different varieties of potatoes. Seed potatoes are provided at a minimal fee and youth observe, keep records, harvest and display the fruits of their labor at the Middletown Grange Fair.

Both of these projects are open to any youth between the ages of 8-19.

Bucks County 4-H offers many opportunities for youth to participate in a wide variety of activities. To find out more about 4-H or to register for the Great Pumpkin or Potato Project, please call the Bucks County Cooperative Extension Office at (215) 345-3283.

**Hunterdon Hoppers, 4-H Rabbit Club**

The last meeting of the Hunterdon Hoppers 4-H Rabbit Club was at the Hunterdon County Extension Center, on March 20. The meeting started at 7:30 p.m. Everyone gave a report on their rabbits. Mrs. Seeley of High Bridge demonstrated how to clip rabbit's teeth. Betsie Friga of Asbury talked about "A Disease Called Pasturella." Darlene Soga of Asbury spoke on rabbit history.

**Super Cupboards**

(Continued from Page B14)

**GARDEN VEGETABLE STIR FRY**

- 1 tablespoons salad oil
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 carrots, cleaned and sliced
- 2 ribs celery, cleaned sliced
- 1 cup broccoli, washed, separated into flowerets with stems cut into thin slices
- 1 cup cabbage, cleaned and shredded
- 1 cup onions, sliced thin
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1/4 cup water

Heat oil in skillet. Add carrots and onions. Stir-fry 3 to 4 minutes until partially cooked. Add cabbage and broccoli. Stir-fry 2 to 3 minutes or until vegetables are tender but still crisp. Mix cornstarch, water, garlic powder, and soy sauce. Add cornstarch mixture to vegetables slowly, stirring constantly. Continue cooking until bubbly.

Other vegetables may be substituted.

To make a full meal, add 1 cup cooked meat, a 16-ounce can of navy beans or 4-6-ounces tofu. Serve over cooked rice.

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