

VICTORY GARDEN PAGE

Time To Start That Garden Now

According to the calendar it is still about three weeks until spring, but according to the garden calendar it is time to start getting the garden ready now. In fact, if you haven't already got your onions, carrots and green peas in the ground you are late. Many gardeners planted those three vegetables early in February and by the time warm weather really comes they will have garden-fresh vegetables on their tables.

Right now the ground may be too wet to plant. But it will be just about right for plowing and fertilizing. Practical gardeners have their ground broken, harrowed and ready to plant as soon as the weather permits. So all they have to do is to plant the seeds when the weather gets warm.

Within the next week or two we should plant—if we haven't already done so—green peas, radishes, carrots, onions, lettuce, Irish potatoes. We should sow tomatoes, green peppers, and cabbages in window boxes so that they will be about the right size and strength to transplant when danger of frost is over. Remember what we paid for those plants last spring? In some places tomato plants were as high as one dollar per dozen. All we need is a ten cent package of seeds, a little work, a little care, and we've got all the plants we need—and more.

And let's be quite sure there are MORE than we will need for table consumption. Don't forget that all those cans of vegetables you have to buy cost you plenty of ration points—points that you can use for things that we cannot raise in gardens in this section. The more we can, the more Uncle Sam will have available for the starving people in the war areas.

V . . . —

Aw, What's The Use

Are you one of those who tried gardening last summer, only to end up with a sore back, a ragged temper and a back yard full of weeds? Naturally you hesitate about repeating—remembering the jeers and laughs your neighbors enjoyed at your expense. For your information let us state that farmers and old time gardeners all over the state were unanimous in their opinion that last year was the worst year for raising vegetables during this century. First it was much too wet, later we went without a drop of rain for weeks, at a time it was most needed.

Let's get that garden planted. No one should be discouraged by one failure. And the chances are that we'll not have such another bad season for years.

Don't think about the weather. Instead think of those luscious tomatoes, those fresh greens, peas, beans, etc. And if we don't raise enough vegetables to can at least a third of them our gardens are again a failure.

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How To Secure Your Garden Plot

Perhaps you planted a garden last summer and are planning to use the same plot again. If that plot happens to belong to the company it would be wise to first learn if it is available to you again. If you own it—why, it is yours to do with as you please.

During the past year the company has sold much of its vacant property. It may be that one of the lots sold was the one you used for your garden last year. It would be just too bad if you planted a garden on it this year—only to learn that it belonged to your neighbor and he, too, wants to use the lot.

In order to avoid anything like that, as well as save yourself time and money, it would be well to learn the exact status of the plot of ground you have in mind before you start planting. If you live in Leaksville or Spray, see Roger Wilkes, at the Employment Office; if you're living in Draper see W. E. Boone, Employment Manager; and at Fieldale see Coy Campbell, Employment Manager. These men will be glad to help you and if possible, to secure another site for your garden.

Better act at once, for there are not so very many choice sites.

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Fresh Meat!

Look at your ration book. Wouldn't you like to have a nice roast for dinner next Sunday? But you haven't the points to spare, if the family expects to eat for the rest of the week. So, no roast.

There's a way around that, an easy, pleasant way that does not in any manner interfere with the rationing plan. It is raising your own chickens. True, raising chickens is lots of work, but it's also lots of fun. And when they are large enough for fryers they save you plenty on ration points. When they're grown you will have enough eggs for family use—if not more. And remember that we paid a high price for eggs last winter—when we could get them. Moreover, a nice, fat hen for Sunday dinner is tops.

The people who have a fairly good garden, a fair size flock of chickens will have little to worry about in the matter of food and food rationing. It only requires a small lot for your chickens and they'll eat much of the table refuse you are now throwing away.

But whatever you do, be sure the chicken lot is kept in good repair. Otherwise your chickens will not only destroy your garden but those of your neighbors as well. Nothing causes more ill feeling among neighbors than one person's chickens destroying another's garden.

Best to order your chicks right away. They're already scarce and poultry men declare they will become scarcer.

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WHAT FOODS MUST WE EAT EVERY DAY?

(1) Milk and milk products—whole milk, buttermilk, skim milk, dried milk and evaporated milk. (2) Leafy green or yellow vegetables. One big helping, or more, every day; some raw, some cooked. (3) Oranges, tomatoes, grapefruit, or any raw fruit or vegetable rich in Vitamin C, one serving. (4) Potatoes, other vegetables or fruit, two or more servings. (5) Bread and cereal, whole grain, or enriched product. (6) Eggs, one a day if possible. (7) Lean meat, poultry, fish, one of these or a meat substitute every day—use liver, kidney, heart and brain. (8) Butter (or oleomargarine that contains Vitamin A).

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MUSTARD

Grown to be used either as a salad or as greens, three to four crops may be raised in one season. Seeding in rows, sow 1 pound of seed per acre, or broadcast about three times this amount.

A common mistake is sowing seed too thick, either in rows or broadcast. We suggest rows throughout the growing season for light cultivation to keep down the weeds. After September 1 sow broadcast; the frost will kill the weeds.

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POINT RATIONING

Point rationing is for your protection; absolute assurance that you and your family will get your full share of rationed foods. For canned goods have gone to war. They are needed for our fighting forces based all over the world and for our fighting allies. Using less of the foods needed for war is a small price to pay for victory—and foods are just as essential to victory as are guns, tanks and planes.

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SWEET CORN

Many of us, especially in garden varieties of sweet corn, make the mistake of planting too early while the ground is still cold. The result is that we get a half stand which requires extra labor for replanting, making an uneven harvest at the time of marketing roasting ears.

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Buy War Savings Bonds.