

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
New Haven

How Connecticut Nurserymen
Can Aid in Food Production

FOREWORD

This circular is issued by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, in collaboration with the executive committee of the Connecticut Nurserymen's Association. Its purpose is to suggest ways in which the nurseryman can use such equipment as he has and such land as he can spare to produce food crops so much needed. We believe, too, that it will help the large estate owner or gardener whose problems are similar to the nurseryman's. The nurseryman's problem is to select crops that will be most efficiently produced with the type of equipment and labor he has available. We are confident that every nurseryman will do his utmost in this emergency.

The Association is indebted to our Agricultural Station for its cooperation in the preparation and distribution of this publication to all interested.

WELLINGTON KENNEDY, *President*
CONNECTICUT NURSERYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MANY Connecticut nurserymen have already made their plans. The following suggestions may be helpful to other nurserymen and to people similarly situated as to land, equipment and labor.

What to Grow

Almost all food or grain crops should be in demand this year, and at good prices. Tomatoes, sweet corn, potatoes, cabbage, beans (dry or snap), winter squash, rutabagas, carrots, corn for husking, all have possibilities. Considering the situation of the average nurseryman, the follow-

ing comments are offered. One or two high-quality standard varieties are suggested.

Tomatoes

Pritchard
Rutgers

Require labor for harvest, and an immediate market.

Sweet Corn

Golden Cross
Bantam
Marcross
Carmelcross

The midseason crop will escape most of the borer injury.

Potatoes

Irish Cobbler
Chippewa

Unless equipped with a modern spray rig, early potatoes should be grown. They yield reasonably well; the flea beetle is about the only pest and it is easily controlled with simple apparatus. By July 10 on early soil, one should be able to dig.

New growers—3 acres or more—should see their County Agent for a "quota". Otherwise they would not qualify for the "incentive" price, nor for machinery that might be needed.

Cabbage—late only

Penn State Ball-head

For cabbage worm, pyrethrum or cryolite dust.

Beans (dry)

Yellow Eye
Marrowfat

There seems to be a good local demand for beans. They are not hard to grow nor harvest, but a fanning mill for cleaning is desirable. Also, they should be protected against weevil when stored.

Beans (snap)

Bountiful
Tendergreen

If picking labor and market are available, these offer chance of profit. Both snap and dry beans need dusting with cryolite or rotenone for bean beetle.

Winter Squash

Blue Hubbard
Des Moines
(Table Queen)

No other vegetable produces more food value for the labor required. Put a forkful of manure in each hill, plus a cupful of fertilizer.

Plant 8 by 8 feet three plants per hill. Plant mid-May to avoid borer. Store in a dry cellar—sell before Christmas. Don't bruise.

Cucumbers for Pickling

There is some market for these, but they are heir to all the plant pests in the book.

Corn—for Husking

For anyone who has some new land, this crop or sweet corn is well suited.

Labor needed is very small—if land is harrowed rather than cultivated, in the early stages. With the present price of grain, this crop should be worth while.

Rutabagas

Any variety

Heir to many troubles and require considerable work. Best adapted to higher elevations and northern sections of State.

Carrots (late)

Imperator
(seed scarce)
or
Any variety

Require considerable labor, especially for thinning.

Some Soil Fertility Problems

Lime. All land not recently limed needs a ton per acre of Agricultural Lime. Put on before plowing—in advance of the fertilizer.

Fertilizer. Any kind one can get. 4-10-10 is the best potato fertilizer available and is good for most vegetable crops. Beans need less, say one-half of amount for potatoes. Of course much depends on the land and its previous treatment.

Manure is excellent for most crops, if obtainable. For best results, cow manure needs addition of 400 pounds of superphosphate per acre.

Poultry Manure is also good, but contains three times as much nitrogen as cow manure and should be used accordingly.

The Station will be glad to test soil in doubtful cases.

Equipment

Most nurserymen have a hand or row duster. This will take care of five to 10 acres of beans or similar crops. Many have a power sprayer that can be put on a truck. A spray boom can be rigged to this and the truck driven down the rows like a special rig.

Potato machinery may be hard to come by. If there is a late potato grower in the neighborhood, one might borrow his digger for early potatoes. Potato planters offer more of a problem, but early potatoes should go in *very* early, before the main commercial crop—and again one might make a deal.

Pests

Information may be obtained from the Agricultural Station, New Haven.

Disposal of Crops

By and large, a local market can be found for a reasonable amount of any of the above.

Tomatoes in quantity might be sold, on contract, to the Guilford Cannery (Knowles and Lombard). Near Hartford, there is the Windsor Cannery. Mr. Wilkinson says pickles are packed by Goodman Bros., Meriden; Mr. Greenfield, Ellington; and Silver Lane Co., East Hartford. The latter pack sauerkraut, also. In all cases they should be consulted before planting.

The State Department of Agriculture (Mr. Benjamin Storrs) will put an advertisement in its weekly market bulletin, and will help in disposal of large crops.