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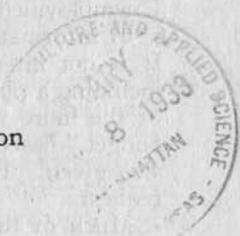
Circular 91

March, 1933

UNEMPLOYMENT GARDENS

Joint Bulletin with the Extension Service
Connecticut State College, Storrs

In Cooperation with the
Connecticut Unemployment Commission



Connecticut
Agricultural Experiment Station
New Haven

FOREWORD

During the past two years there has been widespread demand for information to assist amateur gardeners in growing vegetable crops to supply in part the food needs of families whose incomes have suffered because of the depression.

This bulletin was prepared at the request of the Connecticut Unemployment Commission. An effort has been made to restrict it to information simple in application and practical in purpose. It is not intended as a bulletin for expert gardeners. We are including a planting table that gives essential information on some of the more widely used and easily grown crops. A "vegetable budget," based on maximum efficient use of a vegetable garden, is also given. Information on canning and storage will be sent on request.

Much of the gardening by unemployed city residents must be done under difficulties. Land must be made available and it must be reasonably accessible and adaptable. The ground must be plowed or spaded and the soil prepared. Seeds and fertilizer must be obtained and a reasonable amount of equipment must be procured. In large measure this calls for cooperation of public or private agencies in position to aid the gardeners.

In summarizing it must be said that home vegetable gardening is not a major cure for the depression. At most it offers healthful, congenial, useful employment to men who are out of work. It offers to many families a chance to increase and widen the family's nutritional opportunities at minimum expense. It does not interfere with the business of commercial growers of truck crops. In cities where adequate provision is made for helping amateur gardeners get started right there is no doubt but that the garden movement will prove advantageous in many ways.

UNEMPLOYMENT GARDENS

SITE—To provide ample garden space for a family of five persons a plot of ground of about 50 x 100 feet should be available. It is obviously more effective to have a number of gardens located together so that plowing, soil preparation and supervision, where possible, can be handled in fairly large units. Obviously, any tract for garden use should be as near the homes of the gardeners as circumstances will permit.

SOIL—A medium loam soil is best. Land that has been in cultivation and is relatively free from weeds and grass is preferred. Sod offers numerous difficulties and the battle with quack grass will test the soul of the most ardent gardener. The soil should be plowed deeply and made fine by thorough harrowing.

FERTILIZER—Stable manure is a great aid to the gardener but in many cases this will not be available. At least two wagon loads of well rotted manure to a plot 50 x 100 feet are needed. Where available several times this amount can be applied with good results. Manure should be spread on the land and plowed under. Coarse straw in manure will prove an obstacle to the gardener.

A complete fertilizer such as a 5-8-7 (5 percent nitrogen, 8 percent phosphoric acid and 7 percent potash) should be used. Even where stable manure is used this application should be made. This fertilizer should be broadcast at the rate of about 200 pounds to a plot 50 x 100 feet and raked in to the soil.

If the soil is deficient in lime, as it probably is, some form of lime should be added. Such crops as spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, beans, beets and peas are almost sure to fail on acid soil. In cases where lime is to be applied, 200 to 300 pounds should be used on a plot 50 x 100 feet. The lime should be raked in to the surface soil.

SEEDS—Seeds should be obtained only from reliable seed houses and every effort should be made to insure that only seeds of established varieties and of germinating power are used. It is better to pay a little more and get thoroughly dependable seed than to accept seeds from unknown sources merely because the prices are low. Experienced gardeners will usually be glad to supply information on reliable seed sources, or lists can be obtained from the county farm bureaus. The planting table in this bulletin will supply the necessary information on amount of seeds and methods of planting. Quantities given here are on the basis of 100 feet of row and calculations can be made from this table to fit family preferences.

PLANTS—Cabbage, pepper, and tomato plants may be purchased from reputable growers and will be found more satisfactory for

the average gardener than to attempt to grow plants from seeds. Only healthy, vigorous plants are worth bothering with and here again the source of the plants is the best insurance. Care should be taken to get plants of the desired varieties. Onion sets are usually obtainable.

VARIETIES—In no phase of gardening will be found more divergence of opinion than in selection of varieties. Experienced gardeners have established their own preferences, based on experience and on family likes and dislikes. For the amateur, the older and better established varieties will be safer. As a general rule these are more easily grown, and after all success in getting a crop to grow is a primary consideration. Varieties should be selected with a view to giving a relatively long season of fresh vegetables and with consideration of storage or canning qualities.

The following brief list is offered as meeting most of the requirements of the amateur gardener.

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES

Kind of Vegetable	Variety
Yellow String Bean.....	Pencil Pod Black Wax Round Pod Kidney (Brittle Wax) Webber
Green String Bean.....	Green Pod Stringless Bountiful
Yellow Pole String Bean.....	Kentucky Wonderwax
Green Pole String Bean.....	Kentucky Wonder
Shell Bean.....	French Horticultural Lowe's Champion
Lima Bean.....	Henderson's Early Giant Fordhook Bush
Beet.....	Crosbys Egyptian (Early) Detroit Dark Red (Late)
Cabbage.....	Golden Acre (Early) Succession (Mid Season) Danish Ballhead (Late)
Carrot.....	Chantenay
Celery.....	Golden Plume (Early) Giant Pascal (Late)
White Sweet Corn.....	Money Maker Stowell's Evergreen (Late)

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES—Continued.

Kind of Vegetable	Variety
Yellow Sweet Corn.....	Extra Early Bantam Golden Bantam Whipple's Yellow Early Golden Market
Cucumbers.....	Davis Perfect (Slicing) Boston Pickling
Head Lettuce.....	May King New York Big Boston
Looseleaf Lettuce.....	Grand Rapids
Onion.....	Danver's Globe Ebenezer (If sets are used)
Parsnip.....	Hollow Crown
Peas.....	Hundredfold (Early) Thomas Laxton (Second Early) Alderman (Late)
Pepper.....	Earliest Harris' Early Giant California Wonder
Radish.....	Scarlet Globe (Round)
Spinach.....	Bloomsdale Long Standing
Squash (Summer).....	Straightneck
(Winter).....	Hubbard
Swiss Chard.....	Giant Lucullus
Tomatoes.....	Earliana Bonny Best John Bear
Turnip.....	White Egg Amber Globe
Rutabaga.....	Yellow Perfection Swede Golden Neckless White Macomber

PLANNING—The garden should be planned on paper and this plan carried out. The planting table will give distances apart of rows and this will be helpful in making the plan. Attention should be given to convenience of work and to symmetry. Low growing crops should not be placed between the higher growing crops such as corn, pole beans and peas. Corner stakes should be set at each corner. When the garden is being planted temporary stakes or

markers should be used to indicate rows. A strong cord as long as the longest row should be used as a guide in running the rows. This will ensure straight rows and a neat appearing garden. Where a number of gardens are established on the same tract, roadways or lanes six to eight feet wide should separate the individual gardens. Plenty of room is especially desirable if horse-drawn implements are to be used.

PLANTING—Time to plant, depth to plant and distances between rows and between plants in a row are all given in the planting table. The garden plan should be closely followed and if necessary the gardener should keep this with him when he starts planting.

The soil should be thoroughly pulverized and smoothed before planting begins. Most amateur gardeners plant seeds too thickly. This necessitates later thinning if good results are to be obtained. Where reliable seeds are used the quantities given in the planting table may be safely followed. The seeds should not be covered too deeply early in the spring. Again the planting table is a safe guide. Tools to be used in the planting operation will vary with the gardener's equipment, his own preferences, and points he picks up quickly from other gardeners.

CULTIVATION—Cultivation should be shallow and frequent. The surface crust should be broken quickly. As soon after a rain as the ground is dry enough to work, the garden should be cultivated or the soil will become hard and packed. Weeds take plant food and exhaust the soil water. They are more easily kept under control if not permitted to get a good start. Some hand weeding will be necessary in the rows. Where hand cultivators are not available the hoe or similar tool must be used. Careful preparation of the seed bed lightens the later burden of cultivation.

PROTECTING THE GARDEN—To keep out poultry, dogs, rabbits, woodchucks, etc., closely woven fences are required. Because of the expense such fencing is out of the question. Public sentiment must be depended upon to keep domestic animals from straying into gardens. Traps, guns, or poison are the only safeguards against rodents and other wild life. Moth balls dropped into the runways will sometimes drive off moles. Scarecrows, or, preferably, moving devices, may keep off birds, including crows. Thefts from gardens are not usually a serious problem and when they occur must be dealt with as are any other thefts.

TOOLS—A hoe, a rake and a trowel will suffice for the average gardener. In large garden tracts horse drawn implements may be used, but for the most part hand tools only will be used in planting and cultivation. Horses may be dispensed with after the land is plowed and harrowed but they are highly desirable in these operations. One hand cultivator for each ten gardens will be an advantage. A hand sprayer or duster for each ten gardens will be sufficient. At least 100 feet of heavy twine or cord will be of value

in keeping the rows straight. In general, garden cultivation is a matter of hand labor and requires relatively simple equipment.

PESTS—Few garden plants are immune from insect or disease damage. The Agricultural Station and the State College have bulletins available on the principal insects and diseases the gardener will encounter. The subject is rather complicated for the beginning gardener. Where supervision is not available the inexperienced gardener had better consult the nearest experienced gardener or get in touch with his county farm bureau.

In brief, the following directions will apply:

For all leaf-eating insects mix one pound of calcium arsenate in 15 pounds of gypsum or hydrated lime. Apply on the foliage as a dust. Start dusting when the plants are small.

For sucking insects use a nicotine dust, home mixed or purchased ready mixed.

For fungous diseases use Bordeaux mixture as a spray. It can be prepared at home or purchased ready mixed.

GENERAL—Many gardeners will want to include flowers in their vegetable garden. The desire is entirely commendable but it has been thought best to omit the subject of flower gardening here because of lack of space. Information on flower gardens may be obtained by application to any of the agencies listed in this bulletin.

Potatoes are included in the planting table and in the variety list but it is an open question whether the average gardener can profitably include them in a small garden devoted entirely to hand cultivation. It is entirely practicable for a number of families to join in a cooperative potato growing venture.

Only annuals are included in the planting table. Persons desiring to establish a permanent garden with asparagus, small fruits, etc., will find other publications available through their State College or other agencies. Similarly, some of the luxury type of vegetables and those less easily grown are not included here. Among such plants may be mentioned celery, eggplant, popcorn, parsley, muskmelons and watermelons. For the most part the vegetables included in the planting table are easily grown and the intention has been to restrict the list to a completely practical basis.

The "vegetable budget" included here is grouped on the basis of nutritional needs. It covers year-round requirements for fullest use of vegetables in the diet. It is presented on the basis of the needs of one adult. It should be considered as a guide rather than as an absolute requirement. Used in connection with the planting table it will be found helpful in planning the garden.

Information on canning or storing surplus vegetables may be obtained from the State College or any of the other agencies listed here.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION—Each county in Connecticut has a county farm bureau that either has at its command or can quickly

obtain any additional information that the gardener will need. The Extension Service of the State College at Storrs and the Agricultural Station at New Haven will gladly give any assistance possible. Where local communities can arrange for expert supervision of gardens best results are more likely to be obtained. Commercial gardeners, for the most part, are willing to help with information but during the busy season their time is extremely valuable. Every community has experienced home gardeners, some of them decided experts in all practical phases of gardening.

Following is a list of agencies from whom help with gardening problems may be expected:

Extension Service, State College, Storrs
 Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven
 Farm Bureaus:

- Fairfield County, Post Office Building, Danbury
- Hartford County, 95 Washington Street, Hartford
- Litchfield County, County Court House, Litchfield
- Middlesex County, Post Office Building, Middletown
- New Haven County, 301 Post Office Building, New Haven
- New London County, 19 Shannon Building, Norwich
- Tolland County, Prescott Block, Rockville
- Windham County, Savings Bank Building, Putnam

THE YEAR'S VEGETABLE BUDGET FOR ONE PERSON

Vegetable	Amount for one serving*	No. times served per week		No. weeks served fresh	Amount used fresh in growing months	No. weeks served canned or stored	Amount for non-growing months		Total Amount of Budget
		Summer	Winter				Lbs.	Qts.	
Greens									
Asparagus				8					
Beet Tops				4					
Brus. Sprouts				8-9					
Dandelions				5	10 lbs.	36	13 1/2	4 1/2	23 1/2 lbs.
Escarole	1/4-1/3 lb. Average	2	1	12					
Lettuce				20					
Spinach				10					
Swiss Chard				16					
Cabbage	{ 1/4 lb. cooked } { 1/2 lb. raw }	1	2	16	4 lbs.	34			24 lbs.
Tomatoes	1/4 lb.	3-4	3-4	13	12 lbs.	39	51	17	63 lbs.
Beets	1/4 lb.	1	2	15	4 lbs.	37	5	2	24 lbs.
Carrots									
Onions									
Parsnips									
Turnips	1/4 lb. +	1	2	8	2 lbs.	45			26 lbs.
Peas	9 oz. in pod	2-3	1-2	6	6-9 lbs. in pods	44	22 in pod	5 1/2	30 lbs.
Shell Beans	9 oz. in pod			7	6-9 lbs. in pods				
String Beans	3 oz.	2-3	1-2	10	2-3 lbs.		13	5 1/2	16 lbs.
Cauliflower	1/3 head			16	6 heads				6 heads
Celery	1 stalk	2	0-1	12	24 stalks	8+			24 stalks
Cucumber	1/2 medium			6	6				6
Corn	1 ear	2	1	8	16 ears	44	55 ears	5 1/2	71 ears
Squash	4 oz.-8 oz.	0-1	0-1	12	4 lbs.	14			11 lbs.
Potatoes	1 medium 6 oz.	7	7-14	18	50 lbs.	34			130 lbs.

*Average 1/4 lb. fresh, 1/2 cup canned.

PLANTING TABLE FOR A HOME GARDEN

Name of Vegetable	Seed for 100 Feet	Time to Plant In Open Ground	Depth to Plant Seed Inches	Distance Apart of Rows		Distance Apart in Rows	Approx. Yield per 100 Feet
				Horse culture	Hand culture		
Beans, dwarf.	1 pt.	May to July	1	30 to 36 in.	18 to 24 in.	3 to 4 in.	½ to 1 bu.
Beans, pole.	½ pt.	May or June	1	3 to 4 feet	2 to 3 feet	Hills 3 feet.	¾ to 1 ½ bu.
Beets.	2 oz.	May to Aug.	½ to 1	30 to 36 in.	18 to 24 in.	2 in. to 3 in.	1 to 1 ½ bu.
Cabbage, early*	¼ oz.	April, May	½	30 to 36 in.	18 to 24 in.	12 to 18 in.	120 to 150 lbs.
Cabbage, mid-season*	¼ oz.	May	½	30 to 36 in.	24 to 30 in.	16 to 24 in.	120 to 150 lbs.
Cabbage, late*	¼ oz.	June	½	36 to 42 in.	30 to 36 in.	20 to 30 in.	120 to 150 lbs.
Carrots	1 oz.	May, June	¼ to ½	24 to 30 in.	12 inches.	2 to 3 in.	1 to 1 ½ bu.
Corn, early	¼ pt.	May	½ to 1	30 to 36 in.	18 to 24 in.	Hills 18-24 in.	12 to 13 doz.
Corn, late	¼ pt.	May, June	½ to 1	36 to 42 in.	30 to 36 in.	Hills 30-36 in.	12 to 13 doz.
Cucumbers.	½ oz.	May, June	½ to 1	4 to 6 feet	4 feet	Hills 4 feet.	10 doz.
Lettuce	½ oz.	April to Aug.	¼ to ½	24 to 30 in.	10 to 20 in.	Head 10 in.	60 to 100 plants
Onions	1 oz.	April, May	½	24 to 30 in.	1 foot	2 inches	2 to 3 bu.
Parsnips	½ oz.	April, May	¼ to ½	24 to 30 in.	12 to 18 in.	3 to 6 in.	1 to 2 bu.
Peas, early	1 qt.	March, April	½	3 to 4 feet	18 to 24 in.	Close	1 to 2 bu.
Peas, late	1 qt.	May, June	1 to 2	4 to 5 feet	24 to 36 in.	Close	1 to 2 bu.
Peppers*	⅓ oz.	June	½	30 to 36 in.	12 to 18 in.	15 to 18 in.	10 doz.
Potatoes, early	5 to 8 lbs.	April	3 to 5	30 to 36 in.	24 to 30 in.	12 to 14 in.	1 to 2 bu.
Potatoes, late	5 to 8 lbs.	May, June	3 to 5	36 to 42 in.	30 to 36 in.	12 to 18 in.	1 to 2 bu.
Spinach	1 oz.	Apr., May, Aug.	½	30 to 36 in.	12 to 18 in.	3 to 4 in.	1 to 1 ½ bu.
Squash	½ oz.	May, June	1 to 1 ½	3 to 10 feet	3 to 8 feet	Hills 3-8 feet	40 to 50 fruits
Tomatoes*	⅓ oz.	June	¼ to ½	3 to 5 feet	18 to 36 in.	1 ½ to 3 feet.	60 to 300 lbs.
Turnips, early	2 oz.	April 15	½	28 to 36 in.	18 to 28 in.	3 to 6 in.	3 to 5 bu.
Turnips, late	2 oz.	June 15	½	28 to 36 in.	18 to 28 in.	6 to 9 in.	5 to 8 bu.

*Use plants if available.