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PLANS FOR THE CLUB MEMBER'S GARDEN

by

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You have enrolled in the Boys' and Girls' Garden Club work and we are proud of you. Your parents and your neighbors also should be proud of you, for they know you want to learn, to produce, and make money or you wouldn't have joined. When you enrolled in this garden club work, you took a big responsibility upon yourself. You have a lot of hard work before you, but it will be fun, too, that is, if you are as interested in your garden work as you should be. Always keep in mind that there are other members of your club who are trying to beat your record and members of many other clubs in South Dakota also are striving to win. If you work hard with your garden you will be harder to beat. Remember that there are some free trips to the State Fair at Huron next fall for the winners in the various counties and that free trip may as well go to you if you'll only work.

The Extension Service at State College at Brookings is always anxious to help you club members. If at any time there is something you are not sure about concerning your garden, just drop a card to the Extension Service stating clearly what you want to know and we will always be only too glad to help you if we can.

We are going to ask you to be as careful as you can about following directions. Also, we are going to insist that you be prompt in filling out and returning any blank cards which might be sent you in the regular monthly lessons.

PLAN FOR THE GARDEN

Although it is much too early to plant garden it is not too early to make plans. Your entire garden should be planned. If you'll do this you won't make any mistakes later. Your garden must be at least two square rods in area.

There is a very good plan in Junior Extension Circular #36 and another in Circular #10, of the States Relation Service which we are sending you. Study these plans over. If you can improve on them do so. If you think you have a real good plan on paper send it to us as we like to get good plans from our boys and girls.

Select a piece of ground that is not in a low spot nor yet on too much of a slope. The soil should be a deep mellow sandy loam for best results. This plot should be near the house and also near a supply of water as it may be necessary to carry water later, especially if it should be a dry season. Pick your spot out now and speak to your father or your mother about it. Get their consent on the proposition.

In making your plan first measure the piece of ground you have chosen. Then on a sheet of paper outline this plot making one inch on the paper equal so many feet of the outside plat. Then on page 6 of Circular No. 28 (The Balanced Garden) you will find an excellent table which shows you just how far apart rows of the different vegetables should be planted. Using this table you can draw the rows in your paper plan with a ruler making them exactly the right distance apart. In this way you will know just how many rows of each vegetable you are going to have and consequently you will know just how much seed to get. Save this plan and use it at planting time, putting everything in just as you have planned.

Now that your plan is complete you know just how many feet of rows you are going to have of each vegetable. Turn to page 6 of Circular No. 28 (The Balanced Garden) and in the fourth column you can find just how much seed or how many plants are necessary for 50 feet of row. By putting these figures and your garden plat together you can easily figure just how much of each kind of seed you need. Get your seed now.

SEEDS

Garden seeds are not always good. Because of this they should be tested for germination out of two dinner plates and a couple of pieces of blotting paper or cloth. Wet one piece of blotting paper and place it on one of the plates. Spread 10 or more seeds to be tested on this and cover with the other piece of wet blotting paper. Place the other plate over this upside down and put away in a fairly warm place. If most of the seeds sprout you should sow them thinly but if only a small part of them sprout, they should be sown thickly in the garden rows. In selecting varieties when buying your seeds study carefully page 15 of The Balanced Garden. This consists of a list of the varieties of vegetables best suited for South Dakota conditions.

MANURE

The most successful garden plats are always rich and well supplied with humus, therefore, you should not overlook manuring your garden plat. If only coarse manure is available it should be put on before plowing and then plowed under. If well rotted manure, which is by far the best, is available, it can be applied after plowing and harrowed into the loose seed bed. Three hundred pounds of well rotted manure per square rod will give excellent results. Make arrangements for this manure now. You can haul it on to your plat with a wheel barrow if a team is not available. It is not too early to get your manure for your garden plat now, even though you have to leave it piled up until later. Get everything done now that you can so you won't be rushed at planting time.

SEED BOXES

Later in the spring when it is time to set out cabbage and tomato plants you want good strong plants. Now is the time (early March) to sow seed in seed boxes. These seed boxes should be made

from 4 to 6 inches deep, one foot wide, and about 18 inches long. Leave narrow cracks in the bottom for drainage as this is very important. Fill these boxes with rich loamy soil. This soil should be fine, packed down firmly and kept moist and in a sunny place (south window) at all times. Tomato, cabbage, egg plant, peppers, early celery and cauliflower should be sown in these seed boxes during the first part of March. The plants may have to be transplanted from time to time to give them more room. If these are sown in the seed boxes during the first part of March and kept inside, the plants will be the correct size to transplant into the garden when the proper time arrives.

Study the bulletins we have sent you. Make a plan of your garden and if you think it extra good send it to us. Arrange for manuring your garden and get your seeds planted in the seed boxes as described above. Do all this this month (March). Next month we will take up varieties, planting dates, rate and depth of planting, and the proper preparation of the seed bed.

Enclosures:

The Balanced Garden - Extension Circular #28.
The Garden Club - Junior Extension Circular #36
Plans and Tools for the Home Garden - Circular #10
Plant a Garden.