

## URBAN GARDENING PROJECTS

426-908

April, 1981

### vegetable garden

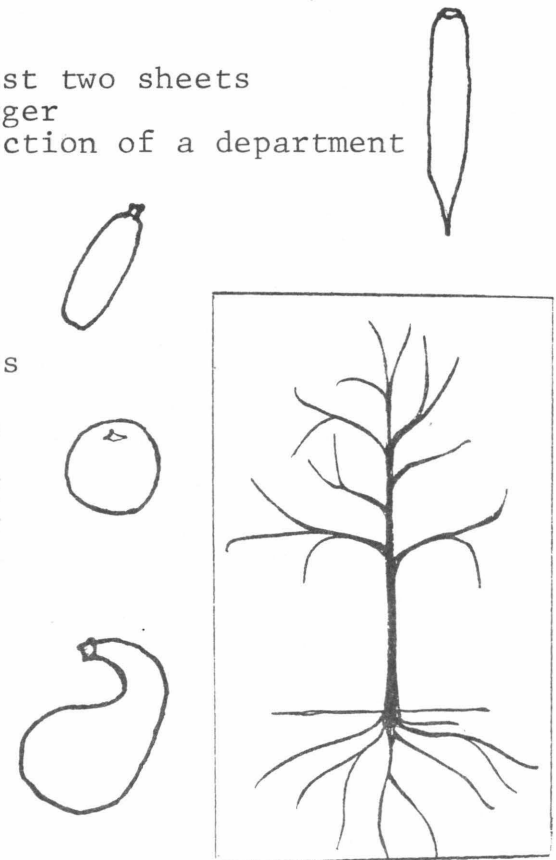
If you are lucky enough to have a space for gardening outside, you can grow many kinds of vegetables. There is a lot of information around on vegetable gardening, so we won't try to repeat it all here. A local library should have books and magazines on vegetable gardening, and you should receive A Guide for the Beginning Gardener with this project. Read the Guide carefully before beginning your garden project, and especially read the information about each crop you want to plant. This will help you remember where to find help if you need it later in the season.

Your leader or Extension Agent can help you get other Extension publications on gardening if you need them.

#### Just for Fun - Monster Plant Game Board

You'll need: felt (many colors) - at least two sheets  
                   should be 2½' x 2' or larger  
                   velcro (from the fabrics section of a department  
                   store)  
                   glue  
                   scissors  
                   paper, pencils

1. (If you don't want to use the felt and velcro, you can make this board and pieces out of construction paper and cardboard instead, and use pins to stick the pieces onto the board.) Cut the "skeleton" of a plant out of one of the large pieces of felt. Copy the one shown, or design your own. Glue this skeleton onto the other large felt piece.
2. Draw vegetables on a sheet of paper and cut them out; pin these patterns to felt pieces and cut out. Add leaves or faces or different colors by glueing other pieces of felt onto the vegetable. The vegetables are your playing pieces.
3. Attach a piece of velcro to the back of each vegetable. This will make it stick to the felt game board.



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## Game - Monster Plant

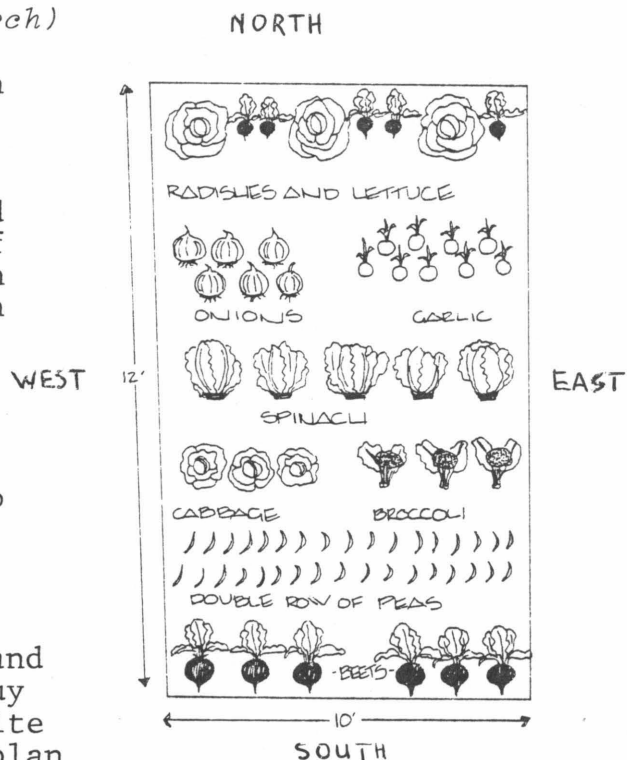
Put the game board up on the wall. Players take turns being blindfolded and trying to put their vegetables onto the plant in the place where they normally grow. You may end up with a pretty strange-looking plant.

## Project - Vegetable Garden

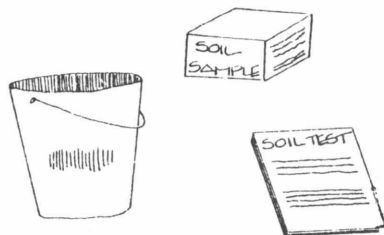
Here is an outline of what you do when in a vegetable garden. Complete instructions can be found in the Guide for the Beginning Gardener, on other project sheets, and in other Extension publications, as well as in library books and magazines. Ask for help if you can't find an answer to something.

*Winter to very early spring (till March)*

1. Plan garden. Measure your garden space; if you are a beginning gardener, stick to a very small plot so that all plants will be well cared for. 10' x 12' should be enough (maybe a little more if you're planting melons). Draw an outline of your garden on a plain sheet of paper. Find out which direction is east (where does the sun come up?) and label the directions on the plan. If you want to plant spring, summer and fall crops, you might want to make three plans. See Guide for the Beginning Gardener.
2. Look through seed catalogs and choose vegetables that you like and have space for. Order seed or buy it at a local store. Draw or write the names of vegetables on your plan in the place where you will plant them.
3. Start cool-weather seed indoors if necessary or desired. See the Vegetable Seeds project, the Guide, and the "Seeds, Soils, Supplies" HELP sheet.



*Very early spring to mid-spring*

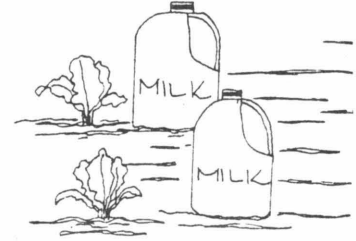


1. Have your soil tested and prepare your garden site (page 5 of the Guide) as soon as the soil is ready to work; that is, as soon as it is not too wet or too dry. Add organic matter, lime and fertilizer as directed in the soil test results.

2. Harden-off and transplant cool-season crops which have been growing indoors or which you have purchased. Plant onion sets, seed potatoes and seed for other cool-weather varieties outdoors. See the Guide and the "Transplanting" HELP sheet.
3. Start warm-weather vegetable seeds indoors.

*Mid- to late spring*

1. You might be able to harvest radishes by now if you planted them early. Start more.
2. When the weather warms up begin to harden-off tender vegetable plants.
3. Prepare rest of garden to plant warm-season vegetables; remove weeds that have grown (they will grow a lot faster later).
4. After the last frost date, transplant tender warm-season plants. Keep boxes, baskets, milk jugs with the bottoms cut off, or whatever you have, near the plants in case of a late frost.
5. Sow seed of other tender vegetables.
6. Watch for pests and diseases on all plants. If you have any problems, see the Guide and the Garden Pests and Problems project.
7. Mulch if desired.



*Late spring and early summer*

1. Harvest cool weather crops as they mature. Clear garden of their wastes or till under and sow warm-season crops.
2. Continue to watch for insects and diseases. Have them identified and find out ways to control them.
3. Start a compost pile if you like. By now you should have or be able to get enough vegetable trimmings, lawn clippings, weeds and other organic matter.
4. Water if necessary.

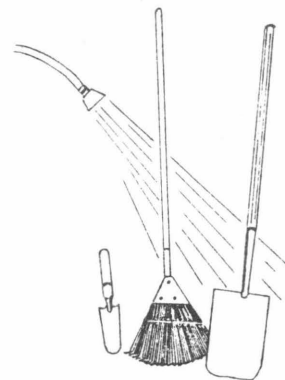


*Summer*

1. Keep harvesting, planting, weeding, and watching. Water if needed.
2. In late summer start seed for fall crops indoors or in a protected place such as a cold frame. A cold frame is a small "greenhouse", usually made with old windows, in which people start plants.
3. Preserve any extra vegetables you may have.

*Late summer through fall*

1. Transplant fall vegetables.
2. As the last crops mature, clean up after them and compost or till under the debris.
3. Add fresh manure, compost or other organic matter so that it will break down in the soil over the winter.
4. Sow a cover crop if desired, or have fall tilling or plowing done.
5. Clean up garden tools, stakes, cages, and trellises and put them away in a dry place.
6. Mulch perennial vegetables or fruits for the winter.



### **Record - keeping**

In a notebook keep records of these things:

- your garden plans
- the vegetables you planted, variety and date planted (chart)
- cost of all materials (seeds, plants, tools, fertilizers and pesticides, fencing, stakes, etc.)
- amount of time each week you work in the garden
- amount and type of fertilizers used; how often
- problems (pests, diseases, weeds, weather) and a note about what you did about them; this can be very short if you are also doing the Garden Pests and Problems project
- amount of vegetables harvested; their value at the supermarket
- pictures of you and your garden
- notes about things you think you might have tried or would like to try next year, how you like the vegetables you planted, etc.

### **Extra projects**

Your garden will probably keep you pretty busy, but for extra activities you can (1) Exhibit your vegetables at a fair, or (2) do Variety Trials. See your leader for more information.

### **New Words**

cover crop: (also called green manure) a crop such as winter rye or clover which is turned under while green to add nutrients and fiber to the soil

perennial: plant which lives from year to year, not dying after flowering once