Hollis Garden Leaflets · Number Three

How to Plant a

KITCHEN GARDEN



Plain directions for the home gardener, with a plan for a garden twenty-five by fifty feet and a table for sowing every common vegetable

HOLLIS BROTHERS SEED COMPANY

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS · 1915

Free to our customers. To others, five cents.

To the Home Gardener

A kitchen garden twenty-five feet wide and fifty feet long, well planted and well kept, will furnish a family of five with fresh vegetables from the first radishes in May until the last turnips are pulled in November, with tomatoes and beans to put up for the winter besides. It asks for no more than an hour's work on most evenings, and it repays that hour many times over.

We have written this little book for the beginner who has a back yard and a willingness to work, but does not know where to start. It follows the garden through one season, from the first digging to the last picking. The plan on page 4 shows where each crop goes, and the table on page 6 tells how deep to sow, how far apart, and how soon to look for a crop.

Every variety named here is one we have grown ourselves in our trial grounds at Springfield, and all of them are offered in our Seed Annual. If you meet a difficulty this book does not answer, write to us. Letters from our customers are answered by gardeners, not by clerks.

Hollis Brothers.

Contents

Choosing the Ground 3
Preparing the Soil 3
A Plan for a Garden 25 by 50 Feet 4
Sowing the Seed 5
A Planting Table 6
Setting Out Plants, Poles, and Hills 7
Care Through the Season 8
The Kitchen Garden Collection 9

Choosing the Ground

Give your garden the sunniest piece of ground you have. Vegetables want sun for at least six hours of the day, and eight is better; a garden in the shade of a house or a large tree will never do well, however much care it is given. Choose ground that drains quickly after a rain. If water stands on it in spring, it will be cold and late, and seed sown in it will rot.

Keep the garden as near the kitchen door as you can. A garden you pass every day is a garden that gets weeded, and the cook will use what is close at hand.



The tools you will need: spade, rake, hoe, dibber, and garden line.

Preparing the Soil

Dig the garden as soon as the soil is dry enough to crumble in the hand. If it sticks together in a ball when squeezed, wait a few days: soil worked wet bakes as hard as a brick and stays so all summer.

Spread well-rotted stable manure two inches deep over the whole garden before digging. Then turn the ground over a full spade's depth, breaking every clod and burying the manure. Fresh manure burns young roots, so if you have nothing else, dig it in the autumn before.

Last, rake the surface level and fine, taking out stones and roots, until it is as smooth as a seed bed should be. Seeds sown in lumpy ground come up unevenly, if they come up at all.

Tools. A spade, a steel rake, a hoe, and a garden line will do nearly all the work of a small garden. A dibber, which is no more than a pointed stick for making holes, is handy for setting out plants. Buy good tools and clean them after use, and they will last for years.

A Plan for a Garden 25 by 50 Feet

NORTH

25 feet

Pole beans, Kentucky Wonder, on poles	*2 ft.*
Sweet corn, Golden Bantam	*3 ft.*
Sweet corn, Golden Bantam	*3 ft.*
Tomatoes, Earliana, staked	*3 ft.*
Tomatoes, Stone, staked	*3 ft.*
Cucumbers and summer squash, in hills	*4 ft.*
Peas, Little Marvel; then turnips	*3 ft.*
Bush beans, Stringless Green Pod	*2½ ft.*
Bush beans, Golden Wax	*2 ft.*
Beets, Detroit Dark Red	*2 ft.*
Carrots, Chantenay	*1½ ft.*
Parsnips, Hollow Crown	*1½ ft.*
Onion sets	*1½ ft.*
Onion sets	*1½ ft.*
Early cabbage, Jersey Wakefield	*2 ft.*
Late cabbage, Danish Ball Head	*2 ft.*
Lettuce, Black-Seeded Simpson; then beets	*2 ft.*
Lettuce, Big Boston	*1½ ft.*
Spinach; then late carrots	*1½ ft.*
Radishes, a short row every ten days	*1½ ft.*
Swiss chard	*1½ ft.*
Parsley, sage, and thyme	*1½ ft.*
Path to the kitchen door	

SOUTH

The rows run across the garden, east and west, with the tallest crops at the north end, where they shade nothing. The figure at the end of each row is its distance from the row before it, or from the north edge.

Where two crops are named for one row, the second is sown as soon as the first is gathered. A garden kept full in this way gives nearly twice as much from the same ground.

The distances suit hand work with a hoe. If you cultivate with a wheel hoe, the low crops may stand a little closer together.

Six hills of cucumbers and squash fill their row, and eight tomato plants stand three feet apart in each of theirs.

The seed for this plan is offered as our Kitchen Garden Collection, on the back of this book.

Sowing the Seed

Stretch the garden line tight across the bed where the row is to go, and draw the corner of the hoe along it to make a straight, shallow furrow, called a drill. Straight rows are not only handsomer; they are far easier to hoe.



Sowing in a drill drawn along the garden line.

How deep to sow. The old rule is still the best one: cover a seed to about four times its own thickness. Fine seeds such as lettuce and carrot need only a quarter or half an inch of soil over them, peas and beans two inches. The depth for each crop is given in the table on the next page.

Drop the seeds thinly along the drill, cover them with fine soil, and press it down firmly with the back of the rake or the sole of your shoe, so that the soil touches the seed all round. Seed sown in loose, dry soil often fails to come up at all.

When to sow. Peas, lettuce, radishes, spinach, onions, beets, and carrots are hardy. Sow them as soon as the ground can be worked in spring, which in most of New England is in April. Beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, and squash are tender, and a frost will kill them: wait until the soil is warm and the apple trees have finished blooming, usually in the third week of May. Tomato and cabbage plants are started indoors and set out later, as page 7 describes.

Mark every row. A label at each end, with the name of the variety and the date of sowing, saves guessing later and shows which sorts did best when you order seed next year.

A Planting Table

Vegetable	Seed for 50 ft. of row	Depth, inches	Rows apart, inches	Thin to, inches	When to sow	Days to crop
Beans, bush	½ pint	2	24	4	After frost	50–60
Beans, pole	½ pint	2	36	4 to a pole	After frost	65–75
Beets	1 ounce	1	15	3	Early spring	55–65
Cabbage, early	33 plants	—	24	18	Plants, April	70–90
Cabbage, late	33 plants	—	24	18	Plants, June	100–120
Carrots	¼ ounce	½	15	2	Early spring	70–80
Corn, sweet	¼ pint	2	30	12	After frost	75–90
Cucumbers	¼ ounce	1	Hills, 4 ft.	3 to a hill	After frost	55–65
Lettuce	¼ ounce	¼	15	8	Early spring	45–60
Onion sets	1 quart	1	15	3	Early spring	60–100
Parsnips	¼ ounce	½	18	3	Early spring	120–130
Peas	1 pint	2	24	2	Early spring	55–70
Radishes	½ ounce	½	12	1	Every ten days	25–30
Spinach	½ ounce	1	15	4	Spring or Sept.	40–50
Squash, summer	¼ ounce	1	Hills, 4 ft.	3 to a hill	After frost	55–60
Swiss chard	½ ounce	1	18	6	Early spring	50–60
Tomatoes	16 plants	—	36	36	Plants, late May	60–80
Turnips	¼ ounce	½	15	4	July	50–60

Seed. The quantities are generous, to allow for the birds and a second sowing where the first fails. One packet sows fifteen to thirty feet of row of most sorts.

Plants. Where a dash stands for the depth, the crop is set out as young plants rather than sown where it is to grow; see page 7.

Days to crop are counted from sowing, or for plants from setting out, and are for a fair season. A cold spring may add a week or two.

Setting Out Plants

Tomatoes and cabbages are sown indoors in March, in shallow boxes of fine soil in a sunny window, and grown on until the ground outdoors is ready for them. If you have no window to spare, buy stocky plants from a grower: one short, dark green plant is worth two that are tall and pale.

Set the plants out on a cloudy afternoon or toward evening. Make a hole with the trowel or dibber, set the plant a little deeper than it grew, fill in with fine soil, and press it firmly round the stem. Water each plant well, and shade it for a day or two with a shingle pushed into the ground on its sunny side.



A tomato trained to a single stake.

Staking Tomatoes

A tomato left to sprawl takes up a great deal of room and loses much of its fruit to rot. Drive a stout stake five feet long beside each plant when it is set out, and tie the stem to it loosely with strips of soft cloth as it grows. Pinch out the side shoots that start where the leaves join the stem, keeping one or two main stems. Staked plants may stand three feet apart, and their fruit ripens earlier and cleaner.

Pole Beans

Set poles eight feet long firmly in the ground, three feet apart, or tie three together at the top like a tent. Plant five or six beans round each pole, and pull out all but the four strongest plants. They will find the pole without help.

Cucumbers and Squash

These are planted in hills, each a low, broad mound of rich soil with a forkful of manure dug in beneath it. Sow eight or ten seeds in each hill, and when the plants are well up, keep the three best. Pick off the striped beetles that come to eat the young leaves early in the morning, while they are slow.

Care Through the Season



Pole beans on three poles tied together.

Hoeing and Weeding

Hoe the whole garden once a week, and always after a rain as soon as the surface is dry. The hoe kills weeds while they are small and keeps a loose layer of soil on top that holds the moisture beneath. Never let weeds go to seed: one year's seeding means seven years' weeding.

Thinning

Most seed is sown thicker than the plants can grow, so pull out the extras while they are small, leaving the distances given in the table. It seems a waste, but crowded plants make nothing worth picking. Young beets and lettuce pulled in thinning are good to eat.

Watering

Water seldom but thoroughly, soaking the ground several inches deep, in the evening rather than in the heat of the day. A sprinkling that wets only the surface does more harm than good, drawing the roots up where the sun will dry them.

Insects

Look the garden over every day or two. Pick off potato beetles and tomato worms by hand. Dust cabbages with fresh wood ashes while the dew is on them, to keep the green worms away. A young plant that falls over suddenly may have a cutworm at its stem: scratch the soil round it, find the worm, and destroy it.

Keep the Garden Full

As soon as a row of peas, lettuce, or early beets is finished, pull up the old plants, dig in a little manure, and sow again. Turnips, late beets, spinach, and lettuce sown in July and August will carry the garden on until hard frost.

At the End of the Season

Gather everything before the first hard freeze. Clear the garden of old plants, spread manure over it, and dig it in the autumn so that it lies rough all winter. The frost will break it up, and it will be ready for the spade as early as any garden in the neighborhood.

SEEDSMEN SINCE 1874

Hollis Tested Seeds

Every lot of seed we sell is grown and tested in our own trial grounds before it is offered. We would rather lose a sale than send out seed that will not grow.

The Kitchen Garden Collection

Sixteen full-size packets, the vegetables for the garden on page 4: Kentucky Wonder and Stringless Green Pod beans, Golden Bantam sweet corn, Earliana tomato, Detroit Dark Red beet, Chantenay carrot, Hollow Crown parsnip, Black-Seeded Simpson and Big Boston lettuce, Jersey Wakefield cabbage, Little Marvel peas, cucumber, summer squash, spinach, radish, and Swiss chard.

Sent postpaid for 75 cents

Our Seed Annual for 1916, with prices for everything named in this book and many hundreds of other vegetables and flowers, will be mailed free in January to all who ask for it.

Order by mail, using the order sheet in the Seed Annual or a plain sheet of paper. Write your name, post office, and state clearly, and send money by post office order, express order, or check. We pay postage on all seeds in packets.

Visitors are welcome at our trial grounds on Mill Road from June to September, where every variety in this book may be seen growing side by side.

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